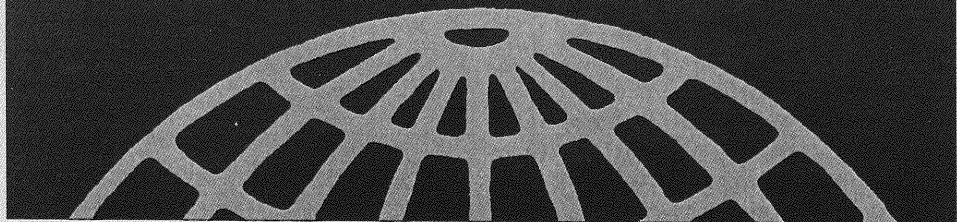


# Industrial Worker



★ ORGANIZATION ★ EDUCATION ★ EMANCIPATION ★

June 2001

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## High-tech workers laid off by thousands

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

Workers may be wondering just what in hell happened to the much-hyped "New Economy." Many are now facing layoffs in the tens of thousands across the U.S., following a decade that, media pundits told us, was one of unheard-of profits.

The "New Economy" was a product of either New Democrat tech savviness or of Republican "Contract with America" welfare slashing, depending on whom you asked a few years ago. It has resulted in the familiar capitalist story of boom and bust. In reality, the "boom" part of the latest cycle was a boom only for upper management; workers saw modest gains at most, and these were continually held in check by the exporting of jobs, union-busting, destruction of social safety nets, and an increase in prison populations. All the while, the cost of living steadily rose.

The huge recent layoffs translate, for the tens of millions of working folks in America, to increased job insecurity, mass unemployment, and incalculable day-to-day misery.

Going back to 1995-96, when the Internet's billing as an "Information Superhighway" was giving way to its reality as an e-commerce playground for the Fortune 500, venture capital firms began pouring money irresponsibly into all sorts of ridiculous "New Economy" ideas, diverting resources into nebulous, hare brained schemes that amounted to little more than voodoo couched in hi tech buzzwords and ostentatious business seminar jargon.

Columnist Molly Ivins reports that "this was the tulip mania of old multiplied by millions of dollars' worth of the world's most sophisticated advertising. This bubble was ... marketed as a new economy, a faith, a cosmos.... Part of the theology and the marketing of the new economy is that it is a rebel culture. They [the new tech workers] were supposed to be rich but cool, rich but nonconformist, business wizards but never seen in suits."

### Reality sets in

By now we should have had not only flying cars and moon colonies, but, the PR wizards told us, we would all be working at home, in front of our laptops, sipping coffee in our bathrobes and slippers, making money through some fuzzy process over our modems, dealing only with information and bits of data. No actual productive work would have to be done by anyone. And if you were still doing some sort of factory or manufacturing work somewhere – wow, what a loser you were.

When it became apparent that the "market correction" of last Fall was becoming a full-on recession, the bottoms began falling out of many of the new dot.com companies. Websites like fuckedcompany.com sprung up to keep tabs on the wreckage. The unionization drives undertaken by employees at companies like Amazon.com have been mer-

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## Stop the FTAA!

Wobblies who marched on Québec City reflect on the fight against globalization

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Support the International campaign in solidarity with South Carolina dockers

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*800 Ohio River barge builders rebel against low wages, do-nothing officials*

## Wildcat strike closes JeffBoat yard

BY BARRY NORRIS

In a revolt against both their employer and Teamsters Local 89, 800 workers at the JeffBoat barge manufacturing yard on the Ohio River wildcatted April 30 - May 4.

Four IWW members arrived at Gate 8 before dawn on Monday, April 30. Wobblies walked along the sidewalk while another Wobbly flashed his sign at oncoming traffic. Vorkers drove into the adjacent parking lot nd, upon seeing the picket line, decided to postpone clocking in and instead to talk to ach other about what to do. Soon another vorker joined the Wobblies, and then another. The wildcat strike had begun.

By midday the picket lines were packed nd standing strong. Workers inside the shipard could not get out because the gates were icked and many shook the chain link fence hat held them back from their fellow workrs on the line. At lunch, when the gates were pened, these trapped workers joined the picket lines and a total walkout was under-way.

Monday afternoon angry workers on the wildcat picket lines jumped in their cars and filled the backs of pickup trucks in a caravan to their union hall. They were going to demand to speak to Local 89 President Fred Zuckerman. They had a bone to pick with him.

To understand what led to this wildcat strike, you have to look at the history of organized labor at JeffBoat. Several decades ago, JeffBoat workers fought against their corrupt business union, Teamsters Local 65. After much work, they were able to get a new local and a new hope by switching to Team-

sters Local 89.

But the problems with business union corruption continued, and even worsened. Local 89 has threatened to ratify contracts against union members' demands. Local 89 business agents have literally tossed coins over workers' jobs and fallen asleep during grievance hearings. There is no pressure from the local to enforce serious safety precautions or to ensure workers' health. The local does nothing as the company postpones medical treatment to workers until they can be drug tested. The local has repeatedly denied strike benefits to workers.

Two years ago Wobblies in the shipyard began trying to organize to help workers change these conditions. An IWW shipbuilders branch was formed to agitate in the yard. There were walk-offs and area-specific slowdowns and gradually a few important changes began to occur. For instance, workers were no longer required to work if lightning was flashing overhead. This is very important, since JeffBoat workers are standing on or crawling through sheet steel and using high voltage electrical equipment. In fact, many workers used direct action and simply began walking away from their job if rain fell at all. These victories and the attitude they produced set the foundation for the wildcat strike.

On April 29, workers gathered in the Local 89 hall to vote on JeffBoat management's contract proposal. Up until this time, workers were not allowed by the Teamsters to see the proposal, what they saw came as quite a shock. There was a minuscule rise in

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## 70,000 protest bosses' Summit of the Americas

Tens of thousands of unionists and other activists took to the streets of Quebec City April 20-22, confronting heads of states of North and South America as they met behind walls and lines of thousands of riot police to kick off the final round of negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement.

Thousands more were kept out of Canada by border police. However, corporate executives who forked over a quarter million dollars or more were allowed behind the wall, and admitted to receptions and dinners where they could hobnob with the assorted presidents, prime ministers, and their underlings.

While government officials and corporate executives met behind walls, outside the air was filled with chants, drumming, and the pungent smell of tear gas. The largest protests were carefully orchestrated marches to nowhere, following routes negotiated with police to ensure that the tens of thousands of marching union members and other protestors would not inconvenience the Summit in any way. One Canadian Auto Workers member asked why the march was "conducted miles away from the security perimeter? Had I known I was marching towards a parking lot, I would have stayed home and done that at the fucking mall."

However, a defacto coalition of Wobblies, Canadian Union of Public Employees militants, students and Radical Cheerleaders stood at the intersection of Couronne and Charest streets, encouraging the tens of thousands of marchers to go "To The Left, To The Left, Not To The Right, To The Left." Several thousand workers from CUPE, CAW, Steelworkers and other unions did just that, breaking off from the march to join activists downtown, facing the high pressure waterhoses and tear gas at the fence together.

French- and English-language chants filled the air, including "So-So-So-Solidarité" and the prophetic "Students and Workers, All Gather Round; Together We Can Tear That Whole Fence Down."

The wall, which was supposed to be strong enough to withstand the impact of a speeding car, seemed to crumple as easily as paper under the combined strength of dozens of activists who used the weight of their bodies to lean on the steel poles and push them over and attached rope to the chain link and peeled it down.

A handful of activists seized the opportunity to charge the meeting hall, and were turned back by riot police only with great difficulty. Most protestors, however, seemed to view tearing down the wall as a symbolic

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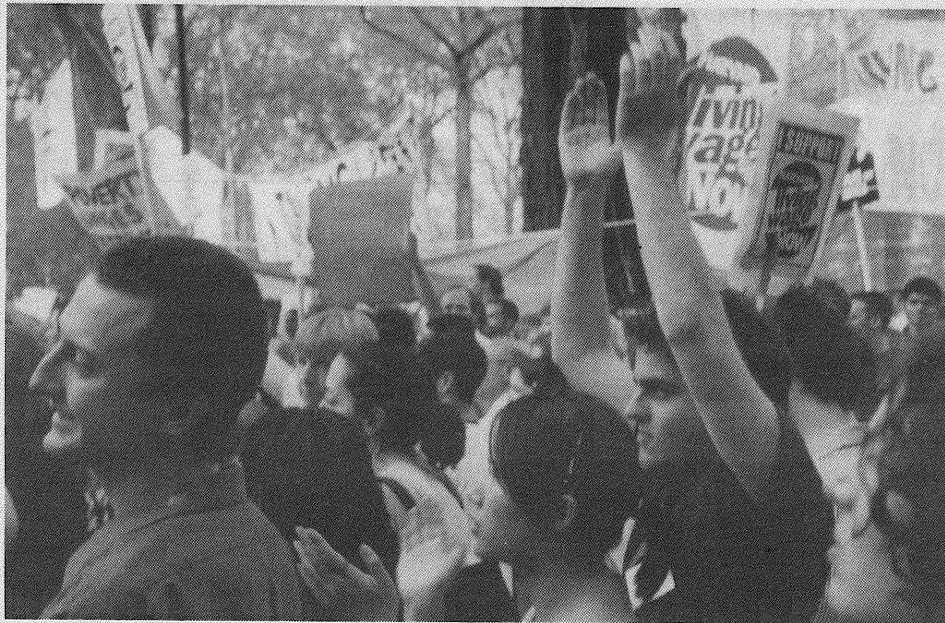
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Living wage supporters rallied outside Harvard's Massachusetts Hall every day, increasing pressure on the world's richest university.

## Living wage campaign hits Harvard

After occupying administration offices for three weeks to demand that Harvard University pay its workers a living wage, students reached a settlement May 8 that calls for a moratorium on subcontracting while a committee (with student, faculty and union representation) investigates the issue. An earlier, administration-dominated committee had rejected living wage demands, blaming 'uneducated' workers for their plight.

Dozens of protesters had occupied Harvard's Massachusetts Hall since April 18 demanding that the university pay all its workers, including those hired through subcontractors, a "living wage" of at least \$10.25 an hour, the same minimum wage paid by the city of Cambridge. Cambridge is one of the most expensive cities in the United States, with rents for one bedroom apartments starting at \$1,000 a month.

Administrators also pledged to reach a new contract with HERE Local 26, which represents Harvard food service workers, and to begin negotiations with SEIU

Local 254, which represents janitorial workers. Both unions represent workers earning as little as \$6.75 an hour. HERE members, who have been working without a contract, took a strike vote as the occupation neared its end, and hundreds of members joined support rallies throughout the campaign.

Boston Wobblies joined several solidarity actions, and were in the process of organizing an IWW rally at the occupied offices when the settlement was reached. The protest drew a wide array of unionists, local and national politicians, and AFL-CIO president John Sweeney to daily demonstrations.

However, while AFL-CIO lawyers helped negotiate the final settlement, Harvard unions (perhaps embarrassed by the fact that many of their members are working for poverty wages at the world's richest university) never struck or otherwise brought their industrial power to bear. As a result, the students ultimately settled for far less than their initial demands.

## Victory in Portland

BY BILL BRADLEY

Portland Public Service Workers IU 670 (IWW) recently won its second NLRB election at Janus Youth Programs; the IWW now represents workers at four Janus work sites. The IWW had narrowly lost an election to represent the Porchlight and Streetlight shelters a year ago.

The IWW has been operating on the job for more than two years, winning victories, including reinstatements and other grievances and restoration of funds, both before and after winning official recognition, but recognition builds a more secure standing for the union and helps secure support from less militant coworkers.

Portland Wobs are negotiating for a first contract with a hopeful deadline of July 1st, the start of the Janus Fiscal Year. Our goals include a 20-25 percent raise to \$11 an hour, elimination of medical premiums, transit passes, and a family wage supplement of \$50 a month for workers responsible for children or elders in need of care.

The IWW continues to help workers throughout the company, inside and outside the official bargaining units, and we continue to build contacts and unity throughout the nonprofit social service industry.

Janus is a nonprofit corporation operating some 20 work sites under contract with the county.

## Winnipeg Wobs demand reinstatement at Organza

After months of stalling and delay, former workers at Harvest Collective finally had their Unfair Labour Practice heard by the Manitoba Labour Board May 1.

Workers at Harvest Collective, a natural foods co-op, unionized with the IWW in 1998 and became the first certified IWW shop in Manitoban history. Unfortunately, while negotiations for the first contract were underway Harvest reached the point of fi-

nancial collapse and the store shut its doors in September of 1999.

The store was later re-opened as Organza Foods. But when union members sought their jobs back, management refused – hiring all new staff with the exception of a few hand-picked anti-union workers and management. Outraged Wobblies filed an Unfair Labour Practice against Organza accusing the store of discriminating against pro-union workers.

Organza responded with an endless series of technical objections. While the Manitoba Labour Board has affirmed that the IWW has successor rights at Organza it has refused to order bargaining until the outstanding charges are heard.

## Olympia IWW sec. arrested

The day after nearly a thousand people took over a street and planted a garden in a vacant lot to celebrate May Day, Olympia IWW Branch Secretary Steve Hughes and several others decided to have a picnic at the new community garden. Upon arriving, the small group encountered police escorting a large bulldozer, intent on destroying the garden. Town Manager Scott Hall expressed his desire to erase any inspiration for others to congregate or assemble on that lot.

Defying police orders to leave the area, FW Hughes was arrested and dragged to a waiting patrol car. His charge of criminal trespass is a bit more serious of an offence than mere trespass, suggesting that criminal activities were intended. These activities entailed picnicking without governmental approval, brandishing a plastic spoon and using vegan salad dressing.

Referring to plans to develop the lot, Hughes says people do not want another gas station or fast food restaurant. "These strip mall developments represent nothing more than more minimum wage jobs and ecological disaster. With that in mind, every workplace and every proposed development is the front line of this struggle."



## IWW directory

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## Student workers are not separated from the larger working class

BY EDDIE MARTINEZ, SWAG/IWW

Upon the lessons derived from several successful strikes initiated by the University of Toronto graduate students, the "Battle of Seattle," and from occasional union-student mobilizations, a new layer of politicized youth in Edmonton, Alberta, is emerging. They are taking up the banner of anti-globalization and human rights.

The Student Worker Action Group hopes to be of use in directing part of the enthusiasm among activist youth towards organizing their working lives as students.

SWAG is a new student organization based at the University of Alberta, with members from PEAS (Preservation of Education Accessibility for Society), the New Democrat Youth of Alberta, the World University Services Club, the Industrial Workers of the World, and independent progressives.

We call ourselves student workers because we believe students are not separated from the larger working class, as we engage in unpaid labour in reproducing the skilled labour pool for companies and the Canadian state; we're more often than not employed in low wage service sector jobs; and with the high levels of cooperation between campuses and corporations, students are increasingly obligated to serve in practicums and in research and development for the benefit of the private sector, earning little or no pay.

SWAG plans to follow up on the previous work initiated by WUSC in influencing the administration to approve a Corporate Code of Conduct in relation to anti-sweatshop apparel mobilizations carried through in other Canadian and American campuses.

However, we also see the need to develop our working relationship with campus-based unions against the larger threat of privatization and to organize as workers.

We will also aim to expand student-worker organizing to technical and community colleges, as the problems of post-secondary education are widespread and shared among all students.

We will ally with any organization fighting to protect public education, unionized jobs and workers' rights, and essentially the larger community we live in.

To contact SWAG call (780) 461-2021 or e-mail swag-edmonton@hushmail.com

## Workers flee intolerable conditions at ACORN

ACORN reinstated Seattle workers May 7th with back pay, after the National Labor Relations Board issued unfair labor practice charges against ACORN. But IWW members were not returned to their jobs; instead of the community organizing work they did before the lock-out, they were put to work fund-raising and doing voter registration.

Faced with intolerable working conditions and no prospect of returning to the work they had signed on for, workers negotiated a severance package totalling nearly \$23,000 in back pay, severance pay and legal fees.

In Dallas, ACORN officials are facing growing criticism for their decision to fire two local workers who indicated their support for unionization. An ACORN boss giving a living wage presentation were confronted at a mid-April "Rethinking Globalization" conference. ACORN was also confronted at a living wage workshop during the Labor Notes conference in Detroit.

Pennsylvania authorities have rejected ACORN's efforts to block unemployment benefits to Gina Giazioni, the first worker ACORN fired in its union-busting campaign.

The IWW continues to meet with ACORN workers around the country, many of whom are understandably afraid to seek union recognition given their employer's ruthless union-busting.

# Chicago Wobs join FTAA protest

BY MIKE HARGIS

On April 21st the Chicago Branch joined about 1,000 other workers to voice their opposition to the FTAA and corporate dominated globalization in front of the Hendrickson steel plant at 48th and Western. Members of the steelworkers union expressed anger and concern over the closing of the plant to generate even greater profits for the owners. They stressed that the plant was making money producing springs for some of the largest trucks on the road. The plant closing is one of thousands made possible by the North American Free Trade Agreement, leading to the loss of over 700,000 jobs in the US – 37,000 of which were in Illinois.

Speakers from the United Steel Workers of America, Jobs With Justice and the American Friends Service Committee denounced the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, which has been described as 'NAFTA on Steroids,' certain that it will lead to even more job losses for "American" workers and super-exploitation of the workers in the developing world who take those jobs.

This demonstration was also in solidarity with the protests taking place that weekend in Quebec and the crowd cheered when USWA International President Leo Garard spoke of the assault on the "Wall of Shame."

After the rally in front of Hendrickson we marched silently in "funeral" procession to mark the industrial death of thousands of workers for a few blocks then broke out the noisemakers and chants to let passing motorists know of our opposition to global exploitation. At McKinley Park there was food and entertainment.

Mainstream labor came out for this event. Besides the USWA contingents, many of them bussed in from all over the Midwest, there were also members from United Electrical Workers, United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union and others. Chicago Branch members were there

with our banner and "General Strike for Industrial Freedom" posters. We handed out 200 leaflets urging our fellow workers to come out for the May Day parade on May 1.

## Wage slavery has got to go

Some 500 or so demonstrators assembled at the corner of LaSalle and Jackson outside of the Chicago Board of Trade at 11:30 am on May 1 to celebrate International Workers Day. Organizers fired up the crowd by reminding them of the advances that workers have gained by mass action: the eight hour work day, paid vacations and child labor laws among others. Speakers charged that these gains are under attack from the expanding power of multinational corporations and the rush to privatize any and all public services.

The Chicago Branch was there with our red and black banner and "General Strike For Industrial Freedom" posters (both the outstanding work of FW Carlos Cortez), which were scarfed up by members and non-members alike. We led chants of "Hey, hey, ho, ho, wage-slavery has got to go" and "What do we want? General Strike! When do we want it? Now!" which were taken vigorously by many in the crowd.

Led by Radical Cheerleaders and an 8-foot high paper-maché octopus with tentacles representing the reach of private control into more and more of people's lives, the energetic mass of workers who decided that May Day means refusing to be a wage slave started its procession around Noon, north up LaSalle into the heart of Chicago's financial district.

LaSalle Bank was the first stop on the global tour of exploitation. A speaker from Jubilee Chicago addressed LaSalle's role in the World Bank and its restrictive policies that limit equality in the developing world. The World Bank and the IMF require that nations reduce or end public spending on human services, open all areas to privatization and

forces countries into a development plan that makes them dependent on the developed nations for manufactured goods.

Curious and confused onlookers in the financial district watched safely from the other side of the street as police struggled to retain the march on the sidewalk with horses, bicycles and police on foot.

Next stop was City Hall and the State of Illinois Building. Police protected the LaSalle entrance to City Hall with 16 officers while speakers drew the connections between capitalist globalization and local issues of privatization, with a brass band providing an unexpected sound-track.

The May Day Coalition (in which the Chicago Branch participated) had planned for the march to proceed up Michigan Avenue following the City Hall stop but some in the crowd decided to make a stop at a McDonalds on Wabash, where an effigy-pinata of Ronald McDonald was hung and then bludgeoned to "death." The pole on which the IWW banner was mounted was used as the instrument of Ronald's demise.

The police became more noticeable and bold as the march proceeded up the "Miserable Mile" of the North Michigan Avenue shopping district, using their horses to keep protesters on the sidewalk.

First stop on Michigan Avenue was the Colombian Consulate's office where Mark from the Chicago Columbia Committee explained how the U.S. involvement in Columbia's drug war is killing the people of Columbia. "The drug war masks the battle against labor and human rights," he said, adding that the reason the U.S. is so involved is so that corporations can exploit Columbia's abundant coal and oil resources and high demand crops like coffee.

Next came The Gap. Here a small group of 15 masked protesters spontaneously decided that the Gap needed to be closed for a little while. They blocked the doors, not al-

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## Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalist, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

## Join the IWW Today

The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries and in our communities both to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers ourselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters.

We are the Industrial Workers of the World because we organize industrially – that is to say, we organize all workers on the job into one union, rather than dividing workers by trade, so that we can pool our strength to fight the bosses together.

Since the IWW was founded in 1905, we have recognized the need to build a truly international union movement in order to confront the global power of the bosses and in order to strengthen workers' ability to stand in solidarity with our fellow workers no matter what part of the globe they happen to live on.

We are a union open to all workers, whether or not the IWW happens to have representation rights in your workplace. We organize the worker, not the job, recognizing that unionism is not about government certification or employer recognition but about workers coming together to address our common concerns. Sometimes this means striking or signing a contract. Sometimes it means refusing to work with an unsafe machine or following the bosses' orders so literally that nothing gets done. Sometimes it means agitating around particular issues or grievances in a specific workplace, or across an industry.

Because the IWW is a democratic, member-run union, decisions about what issues to address and what tactics to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

**TO JOIN:** Mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and your first month's dues to: IWW, Post Office Box 13476, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Initiation is the same as one month's dues. Our dues are calculated according to your income. If your monthly income is under \$1,000, dues are \$6 a month. If your monthly income is between \$1,000 - \$2,000, dues are \$12 a month. If your monthly income is over \$2,000 a month, dues are \$18 a month.

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer
- ☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution
- ☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker.



# Education unionists call for direct action

BY JOHN SPRITZLER

The presidents of several Massachusetts teacher union locals have called for Mass Refusal to administer the MCAS test in 2002. MCAS is a deeply flawed multi-day assessment test which public high school students will be required to pass in order to graduate.

The presidents of the Brockton, Brookline, Lexington, Newton, Quincy and former president of the Natick education associations have issued the call, which continues to circulate.

MassRefusal represents determination on the part of teachers to rely on their own collective strength to put an end to MCAS. Our focus will be not on talking to the legislature but on reaching out to the community with information about the destructive effects of MCAS, about who is behind it and why it is happening.

Our immediate goal is to end this destructive test entirely, not only as a graduation requirement. But defeating MCAS is not enough. We must put an end as well to other destructive, corporate-led reforms and transform the schools in a positive direction. To do this we must expose and challenge the corporate forces behind MCAS and behind the attack on public education.

If we are to succeed, MassRefusal will require massive support from parents and the public. For more information or to join the campaign, email me at [Jgspritzler@aol.com](mailto:Jgspritzler@aol.com) or phone 617-566-9637.

## A Call For Mass Refusal

The MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) test has been imposed on public school children in the 4th, 8th, and 10th grades. This year it has expanded to include the 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades. Beginning this year, 10th graders have to pass MCAS to graduate. More than 40% failed this test in 2000.

This high-stakes test is one of the most destructive educational developments in our lifetimes. It tests children on materials above their grade levels and labels children as young as eight years old as "failures."

It is gutting school curricula, reducing education to a rigid pursuit of performance rather than thoughtful exploration of issues, and imposing a climate of fear. It will drive many students out of school without a di-

ploma, as has already happened in Florida and Texas.

Despite the claims of its supporters, MCAS is designed to lower young people's

expectations so that they will accept their place in a more unequal, less democratic society. Abigail Thernstrom, member of the Mass Board of Education, recently made the point clearly: "a thriving economy depends on a lot of unskilled people."

(Boston Globe, 1/7/01) Similar tests have been imposed in 27 states.

Public education needs substantial change, but MCAS and other corporate-led education reforms move in the wrong direction. They intensify the competition and inequality already at the heart of the educational system. Real education reforms must begin by providing a high level of support for all our children to succeed, not set them up for failure.

We cannot rely solely on our legislators or political figures to solve the problem of MCAS. We have to rely on our own indi-

vidual and collective strength. MassRefusal will help build the deep and powerful movement we need to stop MCAS and to make the schools all they should be to meet the needs of our children.

We call on all teachers and teacher union locals to refuse to administer the MCAS in 2002.

We call on all parents and parent organizations to support teachers' refusal to administer the MCAS.

We call on all people to copy and distribute this "Call for MassRefusal" as widely as possible.

We call on all people to ask that any organization of which they are members ... endorse this "Call for MassRefusal" and publicize their endorsement...

Initial Endorsers: Carol Doherty, former President, Massachusetts Teachers Association; Ken Hamilton, President, Newton Teachers Association; Phil Katz, President, Brookline Education Association; Vito Lamura, President, Lexington Education Association; Ron Miller, former President, Natick Education Association; Joe O'Sullivan, President, Brockton Education Association; Paul Phillips, President, Quincy Education Association; David Stratman, former Washington Director, National Parent-Teacher Association and Editor, New Democracy.

## Emerson College adjuncts unionize

In the first faculty unionization victory on a private campus in Massachusetts since the Supreme Court's 1980 Yeshiva Decision, part-time faculty members at Emerson College have voted by a 3-to-1 margin to unionize. The campaign is one of several launched by the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor, which includes the AAUP, IWW and several rank-and-file activists.

Nearly half the Emerson faculty are considered part-timers, though several teach as many courses as full-time faculty.

Despite growing endowments and ever-rising tuition, colleges throughout the country are increasingly relying on adjunct professors, poorly paid academics who rarely receive health or retirement benefits, have little or no say over the direction of their colleges, and can be fired without notice.

## U Hawaii strike settled

University of Hawaii faculty settled their strike in April, leaving public school teachers alone on the picket lines until they, too, settled for terms far short of their demands.

While the union claims to have won a 12 percent pay hike over three years, this does not take account of the last two years worked without a contract and without pay hikes. (The first installment is, however, being paid as a lump sum, meaning that faculty at the bottom of the pay scale will receive a larger percentage increase, and faculty at the top less.) Lower-paid Instructors fared even worse, getting just 6 percent.

## Court rules administrators can determine grades

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that a university can fire a professor for refusing to change a student's grade without violating his First Amendment rights.

A tenured professor who taught counseling classes for 28 years flunked a graduate student in 1994 for attending only three of 15 sessions in a course. Administrators ordered him to change the grade to "incomplete" and, when he refused, fired him in 1996. He was reinstated by an arbitrator, but continued to pursue a civil rights lawsuit.

The appeals court ruled that "in the classroom, the university was the speaker and the professor was the agent of the university for First Amendment purposes." "Because grading is pedagogic, the assignment of the grade is subsumed under the university's freedom to determine how a course is to be taught," the court said.

## "Up-To-Date Discriminates!"

BY FLINT JONES

It's a popular slogan on the usual lonely industrial DeSoto road.

It's not lonely now though... along the roadside near the Up-To-Date Laundry, the largest industrial laundry in Baltimore, pickets march non-stop, day and night. Chants in Spanish and English are punctuated with banging on water bottles: "Si se puede!" and "We Are the Union!" Latinos, African-Americans and whites mix freely on the picket lines, united against the owners.

Workers have been trying to organize a union through UNITE! for almost two years. The boss has fought them with every dirty trick he has, in addition to some of the worst labor practices in Maryland.

The boss is openly racist, paying African-Americans less and giving them the least desirable work. Up-To-Date pays African-Americans 50 cents less an hour (\$5.50). Owner Nancy Stair says, "Latinos are better workers than blacks."

Workers often work 15-hour shifts with

only an hour break, going in at 1 p.m. not knowing when their day will end — when there's a lot of work they work till 5 a.m.

Up-To-Date fired 60 workers in an intimidation/harassment effort during the last organizing campaign. This time they've fired 10 so far, prompting workers to go out on an unfair labor practices strike April 29.

The Maryland Commission on Human Relations and the NLRB have confirmed over 100 violations of labor law, including sexual harassment/assault, discrimination, violation of worker safety laws, and illegal firings. There have also been death threats and physical beatings of union supporters.

While the union is legally prohibited from engaging in "secondary boycotts," student and community groups have been encouraging Up-To-Date customers to cancel their contracts for the duration of the strike. A boisterous demonstration outside the swank Sheraton Hotel prompted management to cancel their contract that day. Leafletting continues outside several hospi-

## Building trades in turmoil

Two months after the United Brotherhood of Carpenters withdrew from the AFL-CIO, few jurisdictional conflicts have broken out to date. While the Boilermakers quickly demanded that contractors turn over equipment installation work presently done by members of the Carpenters' Millwright division, other building trades unions are proceeding more cautiously.

However, the British Columbia Provincial Council of Carpenters has voted to seek Canadian autonomy. The Council previously blocked a "reorganization" scheme when the B.C. Labour Relations Board ruled that it illegally deprived members of the right to vote.

On May 2 AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney and Building Trades Dept. President Edward Sullivan announced they were pulling back from an earlier order to building trades councils around the country to expel the Carpenters. The move resulted from UBC President Doug McCarron's agreement to join a task force to negotiate a resolution before the AFL-CIO's December convention.

The threat to expel the Carpenters from local councils was proving difficult to enforce, as many could not survive without the union's participation. Reportedly, some local councils said they would chance expulsion from the AFL-CIO rather than boot out the Carpenters.

McCarron's recent statement disavowing "wall-to-wall" unionism may have reinforced their position. "We have no intention of organizing a single construction union, working wall-to-wall, under vertical agreements," McCarron said, while warning that the UBC would not tolerate any infringement on its jurisdiction.

However, many rank-and-file carpenters remain convinced that the UBC is transforming itself from a union to a temp agency providing contractors with carpenters, ironworkers, masons, laborers and other workers in a complete labor package.

In the process, negotiations would be removed even further from the membership — Carpenters for a Democratic Union International chairman Ken Little predicts the UBC will soon have a single body negotiate all labor contracts, benefiting the government, contractors and project owners at the expense of the rank and file.

The CDUI is planning a series of jobsite actions to build solidarity among workers on the job, regardless of union affiliation. This could be an invaluable first step in building genuine industrial unionism in construction, of building power on the job instead of squabbling among the various trade unions to see who can deliver the most compliant workers to the boss at the cheapest rate.

## Mass lay-offs hit high-tech sector

*continued from page 1*

cilessly crushed in a manner that would have made any old school industrial capitalist proud. The capitalist class is, as unbelievable as it might seem, still the capitalist class.

And while many dot.coms have succeeded in doing things like, oh, gentrifying San Francisco's Mission District even as they struggle to remain profitable, or even as they support "guest worker" bills that undercut wages at home and lead to indentured servitude for foreigners, the gap between rich and poor in the US has widened significantly. According to the United Nations the global gap between rich and poor is at its most extreme ever and will continue to broaden if things remain on their current course.

## The centering of the management of industries

That current course includes 10,000 layoffs at Verizon, at least 8,500 layoffs at Cisco Systems, 22,000 layoffs at Motorola, 16,000 layoffs at Lucent Technologies, 20,000 layoffs at Nortel Networks, 5,000 at Compaq, 7,000 at ADC Communications, 5,000 at Intel, 4,300 at Xerox, 2,500 at Texas Instruments, and 2,400 at AOL Time Warner, among many others. Topping these are 26,000 layoffs at Daimler-Chrysler.

Many of these companies, including AOL Time Warner, Verizon and Daimler-Chrysler, are the results of mergers between megacorporations that happened not too long ago. These mergers were government approved because they were in the "public interest." But what interest does the public have in high unemployment? The part of the Preamble to the Constitution of the IWW that mentions the "centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands" could have been written last week.

The ever more centrally managed industries I mentioned provide mainly hi tech products and services and have relied on the "rich but cool, rich but nonconformist" pipe dreams of Generation X to attract new workers. These fired young workers must now ask themselves if it is cool to be cast by the wayside after they have been used by these corporations, the way any other lifeless commodity is thrown in the trash once it has served its purpose? Is it cool to be sold out by politicians who convene in secret at things like the Summit of the Americas, to ratify agreements like the FTAA, which will ship even more jobs elsewhere, even as the unemployed here are looking for work?



# Solidarity keeps Borders out of LAX

BY MIRIAM FRIED

In 1996, Borders Books busted an IWW union drive in Philadelphia and fired me for organizing. The IWW fought back with a boycott supported by union members and concerned citizens across the nation. Borders was branded as a union-busting company and its reputation has never recovered.

On April 3 of this year, Borders Books lost its bid on prime retail space in the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) following a campaign by airport workers represented by HERE Local 814 to keep anti-union, poverty-wage employers out of the airport.

HERE Local 814 represents 2,000 workers at LAX. After years of struggle, these workers won a living wage, no-cost family medical benefits, and job security. When new retail space opened up in the airport, HERE wanted to see a responsible company win the bid so that airport workers wouldn't have to fight for fair treatment all over again.

Borders was one of the companies hoping to open a store at LAX. A host of problems with its bid quickly became apparent. A Borders store in the airport would compete with smaller, local and minority-owned stores already in the airport. Borders doesn't offer a living wage, adequate benefits or job security. And as HERE organizers learned from the IWW campaign, Borders is a notorious union-buster.

Two other non-union companies bidding on the space pledged card check neutrality, agreeing to recognize the union and begin collective bargaining once workers presented union cards. Wobblies who remember how fiercely Borders opposed its workers' union drives won't be surprised that Borders refused.

HERE sent an information packet to the airport commission that would make the decision on the bid, including copies of the Philadelphia City Council's unanimous resolution urging Borders to reinstate me, and flyers that compared Borders wages and benefits to those of unionized airport workers. The union argued that the airport commission should not contract with a company whose low-wage jobs would only weaken local communities.

The airport commission was scheduled to consider the competing bids at a public



*IWW members and supporters picketed Borders outlets around the world for two years; the company continues to pay a price for its union-busting.*

hearing on April 3. HERE arranged for me to fly from Philadelphia to Los Angeles to testify before the commission about my experience with Borders.

I planned to speak about the poor wages and working conditions, the lack of diversity on staff, the intimidation of workers in captive meetings in my store and across the Borders chain, and how I had been fired for organizing. With copies of the City Council Resolution and the infamous anti-union manual that teaches Borders managers how to bust unions, I was ready to go.

On the morning of April 3, HERE and SEIU union members poured into the hearing. It was an inspiring show of strength and solidarity. The airport commission could see that to keep Borders out of the airport, the union was ready to fight.

The hearing began. Victory was instantaneous.

Before the union even got up to testify, the commissioners themselves began making arguments about why Borders didn't belong at LAX. In fact, the commissioners were in such agreement that union testimony wasn't even required.

Union members stayed at the hearing for as long as it took the commission to vote 6-1 against the Borders bid. Then we rallied outside. Instead of testifying to the airport

commission about Borders, I spoke to the crowd. With chants of "¡Si se puede!" the workers declared their commitment to keeping union-busting companies like Borders out of LAX.

According to HERE organizer Francis Engler, HERE's efforts to keep Borders out of LAX were made possible by the IWW's stalwart fight to expose Borders for the anti-worker company it is rather than the progressive company it pretends to be.

"Sometimes the fruits of your struggle are not immediately apparent," said Engler. "In this case, the brave work that IWW activists started years ago at Borders has paved the way for dozens of Los Angeles families to enjoy living wages, health insurance, and respect."

## The sacred right to strike

Demonstrating how workers in other countries take for granted rights that U.S. workers lost long ago, the Congress of South African Trade Unions issued a press release May 7 denouncing the Oil, Chemical, General and Allied Workers' Union for signing a recognition agreement which surrenders workers' right to strike.

OCGAWU had denounced COSATU and its affiliate NUMSA for 'selling out' workers at the Uitenhage VWSA plant, accusing NUMSA of 'collaboration' with management, and "present[ing] themselves as the authentic voice of left-wing trade unionism."

However, OCGAWU's recognition agreement with Union Spinning Mills (Pty) Ltd. contains a clause providing that unresolved grievances will be settled through arbitration.

"Private arbitration is the only course of action allowed," COSATU notes. "There is no right to strike. If the employers adopt an intransigent position, workers will be powerless. This clause covers all 'matters of mutual interest,' a legal term which includes wages and working conditions."

COSATU also notes that the agreement extends until 2003.

"COSATU and its affiliates condemn this agreement as a capitulation to the employers and warn other workers not to be fooled by such splinter 'unions.' They offer to fight for the workers but when it comes to delivery, they enter agreements like this, which no genuine trade union could possibly accept." AFL-CIO take notice.

## Govt. to poor: 'eat garbage'

Ever wonder how people live on the pittance sums paid out to welfare recipients? Well, it isn't easy. Eugene, Oregon, hired a private contractor to educate recipients on how to make ends meet. That being impossible, the company's materials urged people to turn to alternative resources, such as digging into garbage cans in search of food. Faced with public outcry, the government has apologized and withdrawn the materials. But they didn't fork over any money so people could actually live on their welfare benefits.

## Northwest mechanics settle

After working four years without a contract and being barred from striking by a presidential order, Northwest Airlines has settled with mechanics represented by the independent Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association. Mechanics would receive back pay averaging \$10,000, a signing bonus of \$3,750 each, and a 37.3 percent pay hike over the life of the contract.

Cleaners and custodians represented by the union would receive much smaller increases. Northwest said the retroactive pay will cost about \$88 million.

Mechanics overwhelmingly rejected a tentative deal in 1998 and withdrew from the International Association of Machinists. AMFA is battling the IAM to represent airline mechanics at several other airlines.

## Calgary transit workers defeated

Calgary bus and C-Train drivers, maintenance workers and office staff have ended a 50-day strike, failing to block expanded use of part-time workers on shuttle buses, the main issue in the strike. The city withdrew altogether an earlier offer to cap the shuttles at 20 percent of service, a cap that had been rejected by workers as too high.

The deal was brokered by the international president of the Amalgamated Transit Union. The city did agree to create up to 50 extra four-day work week runs that many senior drivers had wanted.

Workers fired during the strike for strike-related activity will not be taken back, pending arbitration.

## B.C. projectionists defeated after 2 yrs

A two-year lockout by Cineplex and Famous Players Theatres (owned by Sony and Viacom) has ended with a deal cutting the unionized projectionist workforce from 60 to around 15 workers. Only the largest British Columbia theatres will remain unionized, and only two of the 60 locked-out workers are returning.

While several theatres were shut down during mass rallies early in the dispute, as it dragged on the workers found themselves alone. Workers, who took pay cuts in 1989 and 1995, are bitter over the settlement. "You hear a lot of union leaders talk about the need for greater solidarity amongst working people," a projectionist said, "and yet never actually do it. They can talk the talk but not walk the walk, the picket line that is." When the courts issued injunctions against mass picketing, workers say, the union obeyed them to the letter, rather than mobilizing the kind of support needed to win.

## Revolving door

Cleveland Teamsters Local 407 is asking that IBT officers be required to pledge that they will not take any management, consulting or similar positions with Teamster employers for five years after leaving union office. Several Teamsters top officials have jumped the fence in recent years, accepting lucrative positions with the bosses.

Akron Local 24 president John Mozena went to work with Consolidated Freightways in labor relations after workers voted him out of office. IBT national rep. Paul Toney is now a labor relations manager with Airborne Express, helping them get concessions. Hoffa appointee Nick Picarello, who made decisions on Yellow Freight breakbulks, is now in Yellow management. (Of course, some workers might prefer that Yellow pay his salary, considering the decisions he was handing down.)

While IBT President James Hoffa claims that membership has grown by 100,000 members, the LM-2 financial report filed March 30 shows that membership actually shrank.

## Emergency march in solidarity with Charleston dockers

The Campaign for Workers' Rights in South Carolina has called an Emergency March and Rally for Workers' Rights June 9 in Columbia, S.C., to demand that the charges against the Charleston 5 be immediately dropped. The June 9th March will also protest a bipartisan legislative assault on workers' rights in South Carolina.

At a January 2000 picket of a nonunion ship unloading at the Charleston docks, 130 protesting longshoremen were met by 600 riot-equipped police. The police had armored cars, armored horses, dogs, helicopters, concussion grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets to break the picket line.

After misdemeanor charges against longshoremen were dropped, the state Attorney General indicted five longshoremen on felony riot charges. The Charleston 5 face apartheid-like court-imposed conditions while awaiting trial, and are under house arrest from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Attorney General Charlie Condon is running for governor and has called for "jail, jail and more jail" for the union protestors.

The state legislature has recently passed legislation preventing cities from establishing a minimum wage higher than the federal minimum (an "anti-living wage bill"); strengthening antiunion laws by making employers liable for fines if workers complain about union organizing on the job; and preventing members of ports-related unions from serving on the State Ports Authority board.

Nordana shipping lines, one of the culprits trying to break the union, signed a contract after the Coordinadora dockworkers' union of Spain boarded the M/V Skodsborg to tell the captain that they weren't going to handle scab-loaded cargo from Charleston. Meanwhile, Nordana ships loaded by the same scab labor in Charleston were being worked by International Longshoremen's Association locals in U.S. ports. The Charleston dockworkers are members of the ILA.

Dockworkers unions around the world, including the International Longshore & Warehouse Union, which represents West Coast dockers, have announced that they will strike on the day the trial begins. The ILA has refused to support the campaign, claiming it would be "illegal" to use union funds to support union members facing criminal charges for defending their union and their jobs.

For information on the march, please contact Donna DeWitt, president of the SC AFL-CIO at 803-798-8300, scafcio@bellsouth.net. Defense fund contributions can be made to the Campaign for Workers' Rights in South Carolina, PO Box 21777, Charleston SC 29413



# Québec City and beyond

BY ERIC CHESTER

Marching through the neighborhoods of Québec City with forty thousand demonstrators was an exhilarating feeling. There was an absence of signs pleading for "Fair Trade Not Free Trade," the meaningless slogan of the AFL-CIO and of the New Democratic Party, Canada's liberal party. Instead, signs called for "No to the FTAA," "Zero Poverty" or "Defend Public Education." These were slogans that did not demand a revolutionary transformation of society, but they did question the entire direction of the global economy.

As we marched through working class neighborhoods, residents thronged onto porches, waving little Québec flags. (Of course, the Parti Québécois, the nationalist party which currently controls the provincial government, supports free trade and pursues a policy of fiscal austerity.) There was a general feeling of solidarity, of taking the first step toward the building of a viable anti-capitalist alternative.

With all of the positive aspects of the Québec demonstration, it would be misleading to ignore several significant problems. Although a few IWW signs could be spotted on the march, there was no organized contingent of radicals. This was a major failing. Furthermore, thousands of leaflets should have been distributed laying out a libertarian, anti-capitalist alternative to the global market economy.

Also, the route of the march, determined by cautious union bureaucrats, was too long, and terminated in an area of warehouses and parks. The march should have ended in street carnivals in several working class neighborhoods, where there could have been a sustained interaction with the many sympathizers who did not join the demonstration.

Then there is the question of the perimeter. The demonstration had been called for Québec City because the heads of state of 34 countries, including President Bush, were

coming together for a photo opportunity to promote the agreement, still being negotiated, to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas. The downtown area had been cordoned off by a high fence, with hundreds of riot police mobilized to repel any incursions.

Many demonstrators believed that it was imperative to penetrate the perimeter. I would suggest the opposite. By sealing off a small, isolated quadrant of the city, the authorities left most of the city open for demonstrations, rallies and street carnivals. The anti-globalization movement should have done more to take advantage of this opportunity to forge contacts across national and

cultural boundaries.

Finally, there is the volatile question of violence. Most of those in Québec to protest the FTAA accepted nonviolence as a strategic imperative. Yet a few hundred demonstrators, most of them young, were eager to engage the riot police in direct confrontations. The rationale for these tactics, the throwing of rocks, bottles and chunks of concrete at the police, was rarely articulated.

Sometimes it was claimed that the mass media ignored peaceful demonstrations, but could not ignore street battles. This seems an odd argument coming from those who in-

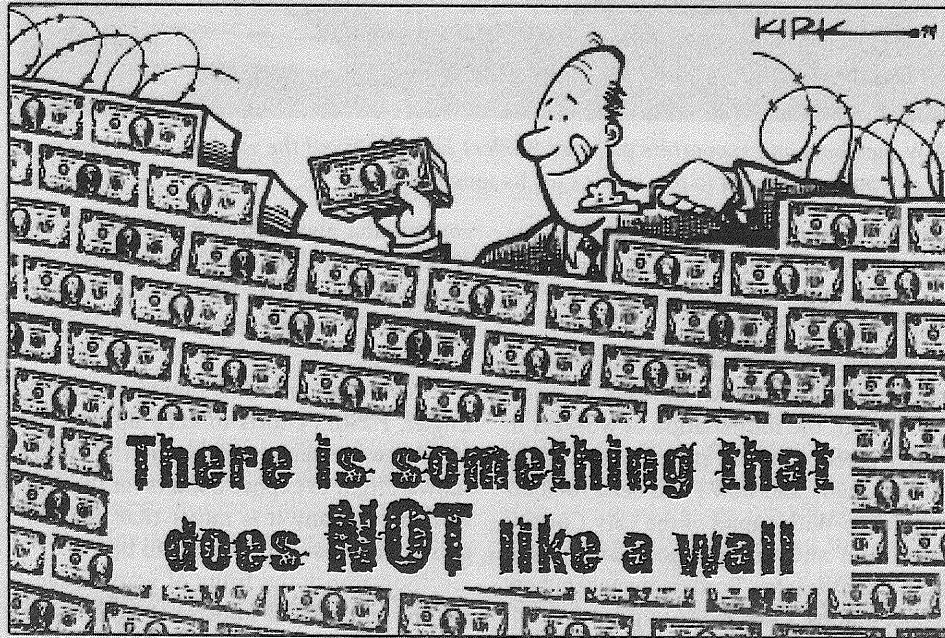
*Québec represents an important landmark in the creation of an effective movement to resist the globalization of capital.*

sisted on their anti-capitalist credentials. According to this logic, the left should permit the corporate-controlled media to determine the strategy and tactics of the anti-globalization movement.

Furthermore, this raises the question as to why the corporate media was so ready to highlight the activities of a few hundred protestors while downplaying the actions of tens of thousands who took to the streets. In any case, it seems doubtful that the "black bloc" set its tactics primarily in order to attract the maximum publicity. Rather, those taking part in non-lethal battles with riot police could envision themselves as Third World revolutionaries engaging in urban guerrilla warfare.

The violent confrontations along the perimeter were pointless, divisive and counterproductive. They were also convenient to the corporate bosses and their minions in the media. Instead of debating the impact of globalization and the urgent necessity of building a working class movement to create a new society, the media could focus its reports on street battles and the perils of being a riot cop.

Québec represented an important landmark in the creation of an effective movement to resist the globalization of capital. For the IWW, and the entire radical left, our task now turns to the forging of a network of committed activists who can organize movements on a local basis, in workplaces and in communities, to confront the transnational corporations and their free trade agreements.



BY ARTHUR J. MILLER

Dedicated to those who stormed the Wall of Shame in Quebec City

"There is something about a wall," a poet once wrote. Yea, there is something about a wall that keeps people in, that keeps people out. There is something about a wall that the social parasites hide behind, counting their ill-gotten gains.

Walls are constructed for the purpose of control. Walls both physical and mental control the conquests of the master class. The master class is a class of parasitic vampires who feed upon the lifeblood of the people and Mother Earth. They hide behind walls to protect themselves from their prey.

Walls are built to claim ownership of that which was stolen from the original people of the land. Though they lived there long before any walls, walls were built as a statement that the invaders want them there no more. Herded into lands they call reservations with borders that act like walls, the original ones are left to either assimilate or die, to be forgotten and the bones of the past lie lost.

Walls are built to keep the producers of society in servitude to those who feed upon them. Walls claim them as property, as labor resources. Walls are built to keep them in a master's claim and out of another master's domain. Some walls even keep them bound to their place of toil. Locked doors when fires rage, dead bodies piled up at their master's door.

The walls called borders divide our sisters and brothers, and alien be thy name when borders are crossed without permission from the parasites. The parasites lay claim to the prey within their domain and when the prey escapes to another domain, their very existence is declared 'illegal.'

Walls imprison many who resist the blood feast of the exploiting and oppressive leeches. Countless brave souls have endured that fate. It is such walls that keep Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal and so many others from the people who love them. When you stand in disobedience to the dictates of the plunder-fattened leeches; it is within those walls that they will place you.

They wall out the natural world, they wall in their decadence; they wall out dissent, they wall in their programs; they wall out voices of the suffering, they wall in their crimes – but they cannot patch all the cracks

in their walls. For the natural forces of nature and the people are stronger than mortar and brick.

Today the parasites of the world seek to globalize cooperation among each other for the greater feasting upon the host body. Behind closed doors and walls of shame the vampires of capitalism map out their world domination.

But there are many among those who have been preyed upon who are raising their voices and marching against those that see them only as the means of greater wealth. Cracks are growing in the walls: Seattle, DC, Philly, LA, Prague, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Seoul, Quebec City and many other cities across the world – the walls are threatened, the cracks have become visible.

Down a desolate two-lane back road in Montana, a few cars approach a dwelling. Armed men declare that we cannot pass. I ask, "What upon the land there at that moment in time exists that is different from over here to over there?" "This is the Canadian border and undesirables are not welcome to pass," we are told. Though parasites may pass over the borders of the world to plunder, we the people may not cross the invisible wall that stands in our way. "Where is this line you call a border?" I asked. "I see no such line upon the earth." An armed man pointed to a marker and I saw that I was already across the line.

There is something that does not like a wall and that something is rising up around the world like a great storm of nature. That great storm is gathering strength and is materializing where once no storms existed at all. And the parasites are learning that their prey can resist them. As the great storm grows in intensity the parasites seek refuge behind more and more walls.

As the storms merge together the refuge of the parasites become like prison cells. That something that does not like walls is heard to say, "Tear Down The Walls!" And the cracks grow wider still. Though the parasites have their armed goons, their numbers are small compared to the numbers of those who suffer daily.

The day of reckoning is coming! The day when we collectively pull the fangs of the parasitic vampires out of our necks and cast them out of our world forever. When that day comes the walls will come tumbling down and all will be ours for the benefit of all.

## Edmonton May Week celebrations of labour and arts

May Day in Edmonton has become a ten day celebration of labour history, art and culture. While the city had an annual May Day march organized by the Edmonton District Labour Council for many years, this petered out in the early 1990s to become a small gathering of political groups.

May Day was revived by local unions and artists six years ago with a march, film festival and art show. The success of this modest effort has grown and now is a full fledged Labour Arts Festival, with the annual May Day march as its core activity.

May Day on the Web, <http://www.mayweek.ab.ca>, was launched in 1998 and has become the major site for international information about May Day, as well as being a listing of events we do here in Edmonton.

Wobblies make up a large portion of the organizing committee for May Week. Like other Mayweek or Mayworks festivals across Canada, in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto, and across the United States, May Week in Edmonton utilizes a variety of venues including art shows, a labour film festival, music workshops in the workplace, an electronic Street Dance, a Women's Cabaret, a labour cabaret as well as the May Day march.

The IWW Edmonton GMB was active in organizing events, and had our literature table, which has grown to become a small labour and radical history bookstore, at most major events. We had a very positive reception from people who came to see the table, sold some \$1,400 of literature, and distributed many copies of the *Industrial Worker* and the *One Big Union*.

We also signed up more members and our presence was well publicized by the number of people who wore IWW T-Shirts, especially Wobs performing in cabarets.

The May Day parade went down Whyte Avenue, a street of hip capitalist shops and bars that we have been doing an organizing drive around for the past two years. The IWW had one of the largest union contingents in the march, which also included young activists who had just returned from Quebec and the Anti-FTAA protests.

## 70,000 protest...

*continued from page 1*

rejection of the system where our rulers meet behind walls to decide our fate.

The protests were the culmination of months of organizing. In addition to countless teach-ins and organizing meetings, activists in Quebec City reached out to the local community. The anti-poverty group Commite Populaire du St. Jean Baptiste distributed 10,000 copies of a four-page tabloid in the neighborhoods of St. Jean Baptiste and Limoliou, where most of the action was to occur, and establish an "adopt-an-activist" program which encouraged local families to put up visiting demonstrators. As a result of this groundwork, local residents actively supported the protests – making it much more difficult for police to victimize activists, and for the media to demonize them.

Hundreds of protestors were arrested, and dozens requires hospitalization as a result of beatings, gassing, and being shot with rubber bullets. One person had his jaw broken after being shot in the face, another had to be operated on after police shot him in the throat.

While the forces of corporate globalization are still strong enough to pull off a meeting – even if they must hide behind fences and phalanxes of riot police – many activists believe they will be forced to abandon the FTAA agreement. Negotiations on final language are falling behind schedule, as politicians increasingly look for rhetorical cover behind which to mask their subservience to the bosses. As popular resistance continues to build, FTAA may well go the way of the Multilateral Agreement on Investments. But the forces behind corporate globalization will remain, until we build a global movement of our own determined to build a new world based on solidarity.



# Wobs join May Day festivities

IWW members joined May Day demonstrations in London, Melbourne and Perth, as well as in cities across Canada and the United States, celebrating international labor day and urging our fellow workers to unite to dump the bosses off our backs.

Melbourne IWW's banner was prominently displayed on television coverage, and hundreds of copies distributed of a statement by the IWW General Executive Board noting that "World labor needs a world union."

In Portland, Oregon, 2,000 people marched, including a sizable labor contingent singing "Solidarity Forever."

Louisville, Kentucky, Wobs celebrated May Day on the JeffBoat picketline, and at U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao's home, where signs hung from crutches condemned the Department's antilabor policies and the gutting of ergonomics regulations.

Wobblies also joined May Day marches in Chicago, Edmonton, Los Angeles, Madison, Minneapolis, New York City, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Winnipeg, and a host of other cities.

In Boston, where AFL-CIO President John Sweeney spoke, the IWW joined a lively march through the downtown shopping and financial districts, distributing the GEB May Day statement and copies of the *Industrial Worker* along the way. We met up with a larger May Day action cosponsored by the Immigrant Workers Resource Center and



Marchers took to the streets of Boston May 1, behind a banner reading: "Revolutionary May Day, International Day of Resistance to Capitalism."

Jobs With Justice at the Boston Common. A thousand or more workers chanted and listened to speakers (the theme of the day was amnesty for undocumented workers) and labor songs.

## May Day around the world

German police turned water cannon on May Day marchers, while turning out in force to protect Nazi demonstrators from enraged activists. Some 20,000 workers faced 15,000 riot police on the streets of Seoul, South Korea's capital, to protest economic austerity plans and a harsh police crackdown on

Daewoo workers in April.

More than 50,000 people took part in May Day rallies across Siberia and the Far East, demanding higher wages, better working conditions, improved pensions, price controls, and abolition of a single social tax introduced at the beginning of the year.

In Britain, police deployed in force across London to block May Day protests. Violence erupted after several thousand demonstrators were attacked by police in riot gear.

In Greece, flights were curtailed and shipping and rail services halted as transport workers joined in May Day protests against

government plans to gut the pension system.

In Hong Kong, hundreds of workers staged protests against growing unemployment.

More than 10,000 unemployed Taiwanese workers and union activists marched through the capital to demand jobs, but were stopped by barbed wire and police from marching on the presidential office building in central Taipei. "Workers need to survive," the protesters chanted. Government statisticians forecast Taiwan's unemployment rate will hit 3.9 percent this year.

In Australia, thousands of protesters blockaded stock exchange buildings, offices and city streets and marched on state parliaments in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and other cities. Protesters linked arms to block the entrance to Australian Stock Exchange buildings in Sydney and Melbourne chanting "No One In, No One Out." Others marched on corporate offices carrying placards reading: "We Live In A Society, Not An Economy."

In Paris, the syndicalist CNT [Vignoles] drew nearly 2,000 marchers to their traditional rally, but riot police tried to block them from joining the joint May Day rally held by the major unions and leftist parties. The CNT contingent faced off against police and CGT marshalls for an hour before police withdrew.

Indonesian police detained 11 people on charges of instigating a workers' rally to mark May Day in the town of Sidoarjo. Police said the suspects had been caught "red handed" going to several factories to encourage workers to join a rally.

## From confused chaos to structured chaos: Reflections on Québec City

BY HEATHER HALL

In the middle of the night on April 14th I boarded a bus with 46 other kids heading for Quebec City, and yet another mass action, this time against the FTAA.

Upon arrival those of us from Winnipeg working on the food immediately began to find a space to set up. They say an army marches on its stomach, and judging from the crowds we fed it proved to be true. We ended up setting up our kitchen in a beautiful graffiti park called l'ilot de Fleurie, the park was a designated green zone (meaning no direct actions were to take place there; it was a designated safe space) and we fed upwards of 3,000 people a day. The Winnipeg Free Kitchen was a huge success, allowing people to gather, visit, get good free food, and a much-needed break from the action.

The state, however, didn't agree; although they left us alone for the days of action (they were a bit pre-occupied), on Sunday morning they attacked the kitchen. The bus for Winnipeg departed at 8 a.m., taking most of the kitchen staff with it. Shortly afterward, a squad of riot police descended on our "green zone," arresting the remaining kitchen staff as well as around 40 people who were sleeping around the park. Charges ranged from "unlawful assembly" (sitting around having breakfast) to "inciting a riot" (washing pots). People were held for anywhere from 20 to 30 hours in handcuffs without food or water and then released without charges. The kitchen lost an estimated \$3000 worth of gear (stoves, bikes, cash, personal belongings, food, etc.).

My experience ranged from the great to the rough to the absurd. The first four days I spent almost all my time in and around the kitchen, supporting those volunteering in the welcome center and the peoples summit with food and drink.

On Friday morning, the first day of action, a small group of us set out to see what use we could be with our water carts. We soon discovered that the less gear we had the better; after ditching a few bikes and watching the first section of the wall come down we were ready for some action. And action we got, almost immediately the gas began to fly.

The police seemed determined to hold the line they had drawn with the massive fence surrounding the FTAA meetings; when

a section would come down riot police would fill the gap, but they rarely advanced beyond that line. No matter what people were doing – throwing rocks, burning cars, spray painting – they didn't seem to care as long as we stayed back from the fence. But when the crowds got too close the gas would come, and it seemed not to matter if the crowd was throwing Molotov's or sitting peacefully.

I spent the next two days getting gassed over and over, but we chose to stay where the fighting and hence, the gas, was heaviest, because we had the water and eyewash cart and that was where we were needed. These were also the most inspiring actions we could find; there is nothing more disheartening then marching boldly to some designated point and then milling about in boredom listening to speeches.

One of the major shifts I've witnessed in these actions is from confused chaos to much more well structured chaos, with the more intense actions being consciously kept away from the green zones. While there are certainly times when people get out of hand or do things that are against the collective good, it is up to us to work those issues out amongst ourselves. And I did see people wrestling with these things in the streets, arguing amongst themselves as to what did or didn't make sense or was acceptable.

However, we cannot fool ourselves into

## Bangladeshi garment workers struggle

BY AMIRUL HAQUE AMIN

Challenger Garments is a small garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, employing 110 workers. The boss failed to pay three months' salary and six months' overtime payments. Management repeatedly told the workers they would pay the outstanding wages and overtime payments, but did not.

On April 25, workers conducted a sit-in strike, winning a written agreement to pay on May 2. When the money was not forthcoming, workers blockaded the factory with the manager inside. Finally, on May 5, management paid part of the outstanding wages and committed to pay the rest soon.

There was no union recognized in the plant, but the National Garments Workers Federation has some members there.

thinking this is an effective means in and of itself. Mass demonstrations are useful for getting the public's attention and scaring the bosses, it then becomes our job to take that energy and rage back to our communities.

In Winnipeg it proved to be a very successful tactic to organize in a very public way, so that we were available to give workshops to anyone – schools, churches, community groups, anyone with an interest. If we are to

## A Wobbly in Québec

BY CODY ANDERSON

Gil Scott-Heron put it best with the title of his song "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised." In short, the corporate-controlled media once again has tried to discredit the global civil movement against capitalism by concentrating on the vandalism and violence and not reporting on the issues: lack of protection of workers rights, non-existent environmental standards, privatization of health care and education, corporate control of fresh water, etc. So in order to understand the present revolution against the corporate state one must either take part in the revolution or look for other sources of information.

So I decided to participate actively by jumping on a plane to Québec, with the support of the Edmonton I.W.W. The experience was enlightening to say the least. On Friday down at the "vieux port" (old port) there were all kinds of information kiosks set up ranging from the bombing of Iraq to lawn pesticides. There were also all kinds of theatrical and musical groups that kept the protest lively and fun.

From the port I made my way up to the fence where all was quiet until it was symbolically torn down. A handful of protesters tried to rush the police lines, while the large majority stayed behind continuing to protest peacefully. This mattered little to the police who immediately responded with excessive amounts of tear gas and rubber bullets – using up the weekend's supply of tear gas in one day, forcing them to special order

succeed as a movement we need to reach everyone, not through the tv, but in our homes, workplaces, streets and communities.

People know something is wrong, they are looking for alternatives, and struggling to find ways to control their own lives. Despite not having attended a single workshop or lecture I came home more inspired then I have been in a long time, to keep fighting, and to fight to win.

*In order to understand the present revolution against the corporate state one must either take part in the revolution or be looking for other sources of information.*

from the U.S. for Saturday and Sunday. Police say they only fired on violent or aggressive protesters, which fails to explain why New Democrat Member of Parliament Sven Robinson was shot with a rubber bullet, along with many others, while listening to street music.

Saturday held much the same for those protesting at the fence line. According to the media, anywhere from 30,000 to 60,000 people took part in the march from the "vieux port," and a total of 75,000 demonstrators in the city on Saturday.

The unions were well represented at the front ranks, followed by N.G.O.s and politically conscious citizens. Even though the final destination of the march was not the fence, it was exciting to see hundreds of people break from the march when the time came to turn left for direct action or to continue on to the end. Once we reached the end of the march, many protesters decided to turn back and join those at the fence, encouraging others to do the same. And indeed thousands did.

It was inspiring to see the diversity of groups working in solidarity for social change. There were people from South and Central America, not to mention Haiti. Yet, what was most exciting was to hear the high level of comprehension and analysis of the F.T.A.A. among the protesters. They certainly understood that the "revolution will not be televised" and that it is up to them to seek out and pass that information on to those in their community.



# Rank-and-file conference shows power of labor

BY JOSHUA FREEZE

For 22 years, democratic rank-and-file labor unionists have met in Detroit for the biennial Labor Notes conference. They trade strategies and stories, victories and failures and expand a network of workers dedicated to putting movement back into the labor movement. This year's event, held April 20-22, brought together 1000 participants from many different unions and organizations gathering under the question "Can Labor Change the World?"

With plenaries featuring many activists at the forefront of labor struggle plus dozens, perhaps a hundred workshops, there was no shortage of inspiration, but without a doubt Ken Riley of ILA 1422 stole the show. Last year, his union in Charleston, South Carolina was picketing a non-union shipping line when the police rioted, attacking the informational picket.

The state then filed criminal charges against five members of local 1422 and the company filed civil suits for millions of dollars against the union and individual members. With experience from the defense of the Liverpool dockers and the Australian wharfies in recent years, the maritime trades jumped immediately to the side of Local 1422. Not only on both coasts of the USA, but around the world, longshoremen are threatening to shut down world trade the day the cases against Local 1422 and its members hit the docket.

Local 1422 caught the eye of many a militant, but there were others whose fights are no less important. Roger Toussaint of the

reform caucus New Directions spoke, as recently elected president of TWU Local 100, the New York City transit workers, as did Martha Ojeda of Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras and Tom Leedham of Teamsters for a Democratic Union, currently running against Jimmy Hoffa Jr. for president of that union. Leedham always gives a good talk, but was in prime form this time.

Of course rank-and-file unionists are not content to simply listen to speeches, however inspiring they might be. Workshops covered a wide range of topics. The first section was dedicated to industrial meetings, with sections for building trades, postal workers, educators and a dozen others. There were then three sections of workshops that were far too numerous to list here, roughly 70 in total. Within the workshops were tracks, including one sponsored by the National Coalition for Dignity and Amnesty for Undocumented Workers. The other tracks were Union Democracy, Public Sector, Global Justice, Next Generation, Concerted Action and Popular/Labor Education. Finally there were the Interest Meetings covering topics from Daimler-Chrysler, Bayer, and Ford-Visteon worker networks to Iranian Workers to the Green and Labor Parties.

The Labor Notes conferences are set well

in advance, and two times in a row, important demonstrations have fallen simultaneously. In 1999, it coincided with the huge march to free Mumia Abu Jamal. This year, it conflicted with the FTAA meetings and opposition in Quebec City. Undoubtedly, the conference would have been even better attended had these events not coincided with it. Many who were torn did attend the conference though and there were regular updates of the situation in Quebec, notably when the demonstrators breached the wall designed prevent them from getting near the meetings.

A demonstration in solidarity with the FTAA protestors was held Saturday. Between 500 and 1000 marched through downtown Detroit, ending at a point across the river from Windsor, Ontario, in Canada where a similar demonstration met and rallied. In addition, about 200 occupied and blockaded the tunnel between the two counties, even managing to have no one arrested. Back at the conference, Christophe Aguiton of ATTAC and the newly formed SUD union in France related that several unions in Quebec City voted to leave the safety of the "official" site and join the anarchists and others at the barricades, raising cheers from the crowd at Labor Notes.

Finally, this year's conference saw a pre-

release screening of Ken Loach's new film, "Bread and Roses," about the 1990 Los Angeles Justice for Janitors campaign. The film is bilingual – when the actors speak English, the subtitles are Spanish and vice-versa. Two actors in the film, both of whom are also veterans of the strike, introduced the film at Labor Notes.

Those who have not attended one of these conferences are missing out on what is arguably the most important labor event in the country. With hundreds of activists from dozens of unions, the collective power of those at this gathering to change the nature of the labor movement is overwhelming.

A few speakers hinted at the possibility of a break in the AFL-CIO no less significant than when the CIO left the AFL in 1936. Such a rupture would open possibilities not seen since the era that saw the success of the IWW and then the CIO itself. There is danger in such a crisis, but if it is a real possibility it could also separate the wheat from the chaff in clearly demonstrating which unions are serious about changing the world, and which are content with the disaster called capitalism.

Whether or not such a break in the AFL-CIO actually happens, it is clear from the discussions at Labor Notes that there is widespread and organized opposition within those unions to their autocratic structures and conciliatory strategies. The real question is not whether labor can change the world, but whether it will choose to do so. Those at this event are struggling to make their unions answer that with a definite "Yes."

## Conversations at Labor Notes

BY STAUGHTON LYND

A group of us from Youngstown and Pittsburgh drove to the Labor Notes conference in Detroit. On arrival we found ourselves in a very large room where a host of organizations, publishers and the like had been allotted tables. We set up our Workers' Solidarity Club of Youngstown table: red suspenders that said "Workers' Solidarity" and red T shirts saying "An injury to one is an injury to all"; free copies of *Impact*; and for sale, copies of CDs by Mike Stout and *The New Rank And File* edited by my wife Alice and myself.

I spent the conference mostly at the table. A variety of old and new friends came by. I felt like a worker who was staying at his machine or in the break room, rather than going to the union meeting.

One of the most interesting conversations was with Jorge Robles of the Frente Autentico del Trabajo (Authentic Workers' Front) in Mexico. Dale Hathaway, author of a recent book on the FAT, translated.

I asked Jorge Robles if he knew about the recent meeting between subcomandante Marcos of the Zapatistas and strikers from Duro, a maquila factory that makes handbags for Hallmark.

"Yes," he said. "I organized it."

"How did you feel about it?"

He answered, "Good about the Zapatistas, not so good about the workers."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Well," Jorge said, "after the speeches all the workers wanted Marcos' autograph. But that left out the indigenous folks who had come to the meeting with him."

I liked Jorge so much that I went to a workshop at which he spoke, "Globalization and Resistance." A brother from Canada began the panel with a presentation in which he said that the various "free trade" agreements sponsored by the United States – like NAFTA and the FTAA – are not really about trade, but are rather intended to free private investors from the States to take their capital anywhere in the world, exploit the local labor force, and make a profit, all without interference by governments or unions. He denounced the NAFTA "side agreements" on

labor and the environment as a sham.

Then Jorge spoke, and an interesting difference developed. Jorge said that he didn't think much of the side agreements, either, but on the other hand he had to go to work on Monday.

What he meant by this was that labor organizers in Mexico need any available patch of ground on which to stand and fight. Therefore, Jorge argued, they could not afford to ignore it when, as a result of a campaign to enforce the labor side agreement, former presidents Clinton and Zedillo agreed that union elections should be by secret ballot. To be sure the Mexican government did not enforce this understanding, as at the Duro plant. Nevertheless, Jorge maintained, it was helpful to be able to say to workers, "Look, the Mexican government says you should be able to vote by secret ballot."

In the question period I said I thought the motivation of U.S. unions when they went to Seattle was protectionist: the Steelworkers want to keep out foreign steel, the Teamsters want to keep Mexican drivers from crossing the border. The next questioner identified himself as a Teamster, and since both Hoffa and Leedham want to keep out Mexican drivers, I expected to get blasted. To my great surprise he said, "I couldn't agree more with the brother who just spoke. It's obscene that Convoy Dispatch, the newspaper of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union, should take that position."

• • •

Andy Piascik from the Association for Union Democracy came by, and later chaired a workshop on the Coalition of University Employees. CUE represents 18,000 University of California clerical employees on the University's nine campuses. These workers used to be represented by AFSCME. CUE defeated AFSCME in a decertification election and recently negotiated its first contract. One of the many remarkable features of this grassroots effort is that CUE's initial approach to dues was, "Pay what you can. Your participation is more important to us than your money."

Another visitor was Jon Reimann, a carpenter from the West Coast. We got to talk-

ing about the four-day wildcat strike of some 2000 carpenters a few years back.

I said, "Yeah, there was some shop steward who led the thing and then got thrown out of the union."

"That was me," John replied.

He explained that the protest was against a rotten contract on which the members were denied the right to vote. He has since written for Impact:

"Hundreds of members who had hardly ever gone to a union meeting made up our daily strike meetings. The meetings were organized confusion at first. Everybody just saying whatever popped into their minds and hearts. But within a few days, people started to see that we needed to proceed in an orderly fashion – decide one issue and then move on. It was like an on-the-job learning experience for many..."

"I remember on the night before the first day of the wildcat, I woke up in the middle of the night thinking, I could be put out of office for this. I decided, 'The hell with it. This is more important.' What actually happened was that the International brought me up on charges for 'disobedience to authority.' They claimed that I 'caused' the 2000 to walk off. It was like the Southern racists who claim that their 'coloreds' were happy and all the problem was being caused by one or two outside agitators."

• • •

The Youngstown contingent spent Friday night with Rich Feldman. Rich is shop chair at the Ford truck plant on the west side of Detroit. This plant makes the Ford SUVs and is the most profitable plant in the company, but it has just laid off a shift. Rich invited half a dozen friends of whom four were African-Americans from the shop. We had one of the best discussions of racism I can remember. It went something like this.

"The key to everything is jobs. If there are enough jobs, you can meet the demands of both blacks and whites, and have a shot at overcoming racism."

"Yeah, but in a capitalist society there will never be enough jobs."

"Right. Yet to get to a better society we have to build a movement in which white and black workers struggle together. How are

we going to pull that off?"

Saturday night was spent with Marty Glaberman. Marty transformed my view of the labor movement back in the late 1960s when I first read his pamphlet *Punching Out*. Therein he argued that in a shop where there is a contract with a no-strike clause, the steward becomes a cop for the boss.

• • •

It was good to spend a few minutes at the IWW table. I met Alexis Buss for the first time. I also met Joshua Freeze, who wrote a wonderful review of *The New Rank And File* for the *Industrial Worker*. (He paid us the supreme compliment: "If you want to read about the IWW's ideas, read this book.")

We found ourselves talking about how the "one big union" should be organized worldwide. Should there be a single organization, with every one paying dues to Philadelphia? Or should there be a horizontal network of independent but fraternal/sororal national organizations (the Australian Wobs, the Mexican Wobs, etc.)?

Although I am not a card-carrying member I had an opinion, and I might as well say what it was. I favor the second option. When I think about Marx's pamphlet on the Paris commune, about the Russian soviets in 1905 and 1917, about the workers' councils in Hungary in 1956, what was being talked about or created was a confederation of autonomous groups. On the other hand, I am not sure the choice is an either-or one. If I am not mistaken, Polish Solidarity had some centralized features while basically remaining an inter-factory committee, which is how it began.

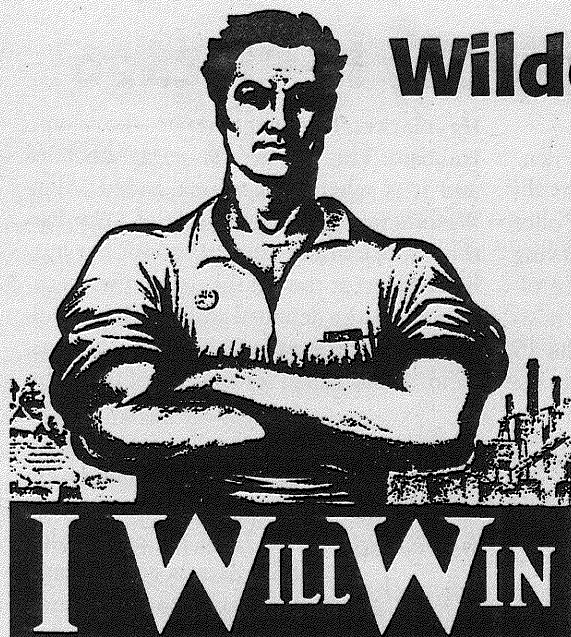
Hey, hanging at the table worked out cool. I think I'll try it again at the next conference.

A somewhat longer version of this article appears in *Impact*, available for \$2 from PO Box 2125, Youngstown OH 44504.

### Russian general strike?

A May 3 union conference has called for a Russian committee of unified action to oppose pending legislation which would throw working relationships back into the 19th century. Among the proposals being considered is a general strike when the bill comes before the Duma for a vote.





## Wildcat closes JeffBoat...

The wildcat held strong throughout the week. Some workers brought out guitars, harmonicas and amplifiers and serenaded the picket lines. A barbecue was set up. Louisville Food Not Bombs and Louisville IWW worked long hours each day gathering enormous amounts of food, preparing it, and serving it to the strikers. Pizza parlors and other local businesses sent food to the striking workers. The half mile of sidewalk running parallel to JeffBoat shipyard became a leaderless street festival where workers of a number of races and ethnicities, men and women, young

and old, stood beside one another. There was not one incident of violence the entire week.

Workers for other businesses refused to betray their brothers and sisters on the picket lines. A Teamster driver from California would not enter the shipyard to deliver his cargo of welding rods. UPS drivers refused to make any deliveries to JeffBoat during the strike. Interestingly, Jeffersonville police and sheriff's department refrained from taking action against the strikers. Police in Jeffersonville have been working without a contract for two years and they suffer from low wages and terrible working conditions including long hours. They are also used by JeffBoat management to enforce company policies. As one officer said, "Half of our calls come from JeffBoat, and we're sick of their bullshit." JeffBoat management is reported to have called the mayor's office to complain about officers flashing their lights and sounding their sirens in support of strikers. After Tuesday, there was no law enforcement presence at the scene.

President Zuckerman called for a meeting on Sunday morning, May 6. Approximately 450 workers filled the union hall while outside more than a dozen Wobblies distributed flyers and held a huge banner reading "An Injury to One is An Injury to All." Inside the union hall, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Senior Vice President Walt Lytle tried to strong-arm JeffBoat workers into revoting and accepting the con-

tract they rejected a week earlier. Walt was clearly not in control of the meeting as workers took to the microphone demanding the Teamsters be thrown out and telling how sick they were to have to listen to new lies. A vote was taken and the contract was once again rejected, this time by an 18-to-one margin with one person voting "Fuck you."

After talking among themselves, JeffBoat strikers decided that their interests would be best served by returning to work May 7 under the old contract. Returning to work under that contract, they decided, would put both the Teamsters – or "Schemesters," as many workers are calling them – and the company over a barrel.

Workers say that the Teamsters have already been paid to deliver them to JeffBoat management under a new contract. JeffBoat needs the new contract in particular because of the new contract date included in the agreement. JeffBoat has just signed a multi-million dollar deal which extends through early autumn 2002. The old contract (if extended for a year) would expire on April 29, 2002, which would place a major labor dispute right in the middle of work on the new \$30 million deal.

Some JeffBoat workers met after the meeting at the Teamster hall to discuss how to take the wildcat back into the shipyard. Members of the IWW's General Executive Board spoke and the strikers formed a Workers' Defense Committee which is now active within the gates.

What the future holds for these workers is uncertain, though it is clear the fight is far from over. JeffBoat workers have learned a serious lesson about their strength and what working people can do if they do not rely on leaders, or the crippling practices of business unionism. Almost all workers at JeffBoat agree that the Teamsters must go, and over 400 signed a decertification petition on the picket lines. Many workers are talking about looking into a union that is not affiliated with the corruption of the AFL-CIO. Quite a few are talking about the IWW.

What is certain is that JeffBoat workers, on their own, became a union and acted like one.

## Unemployment good for some

BY JON BEKKEN

A May 5 headline in the Philadelphia Inquirer tells the story: "Stocks rally as investors decide bad news is good." The bad news, the official unemployment rate is up sharply, with businesses slashing payrolls by the largest amount since the recession of 1991. Oddly enough, that's the good news, too, as the capitalists decide there's profit to be made in human misery.

It's increasingly clear that we're in an economic recession. That's the nature of capitalism, of course; the good times always come to an end. The problem is that the good times weren't so good. The U.S. has just come off the longest economic expansion in its history, bringing what the pundits call "unprecedented prosperity" to the country.

But a new study by the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth reveals that despite the record expansion of the 1990s, the typical Massachusetts household makes less money today than it did in 1989. While average income increased as stockbrokers and corporate executives raked in enormous salaries, more than half the state's households saw their inflation-adjusted income shrink. Meanwhile, rent and energy costs skyrocketed, forcing many workers to take second and third jobs just to keep a roof over their heads.

Of course, all is not gloom and doom. The April 16 Business Week reports that average pay for CEO's of the 365 largest U.S. firms hit \$13.1 million last year, up 18 percent from the year before. The best paid CEO? Citigroup's John Reed, who pulled in \$293 million in salary and bonuses before retiring in April. His replacement had to work the remaining 8 months for a paltry \$224.9 million.

## UK bosses' pay to £600k

British executives received salary increases averaging 8 percent last year – double that of their employees and more than three times the annual inflation rate, according to an Executive Remuneration Review. CEOs of the FTSE 100's top 30 averaged just over £600,000, rising to £800,000-plus when bonuses were included.

## Labor can change the world

BY JON BEKKEN

"Can Labor Change the World?" was the theme of this year's Labor Notes conference, a sorry climb-down from the days when its organizers would have taken for granted that the answer was Yes.

There were reports on strikes and on efforts to reform the business unions, there were classes on how to run for office, conduct a meeting, or hook up to the Internet. There were discussions of international solidarity, with participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, France, Germany and Mexico. Many sessions imparted useful information, or at least put labor activists in touch with each other – which is perhaps the most important thing a conference of this sort can hope to accomplish.

But there was precious little world changing on the agenda. To be sure, speakers in the closing plenary declared that labor can indeed change the world (some even said it must), but there was little mention of why we might want to change the world, even less of how we might do so (a passing reference to general strikes was in the context of defensive fights), and none whatever of what sort of world we might choose to build.

At a session on building international solidarity, we heard a report on the struggle at the Duro Bag plant along the U.S.-Mexico border. While there was some financial assistance, and U.S. observers went down to monitor the rigged "election" that ensured that workers will continue to be "represented" by a company-dominated union (see report in the April IW), there was no actual

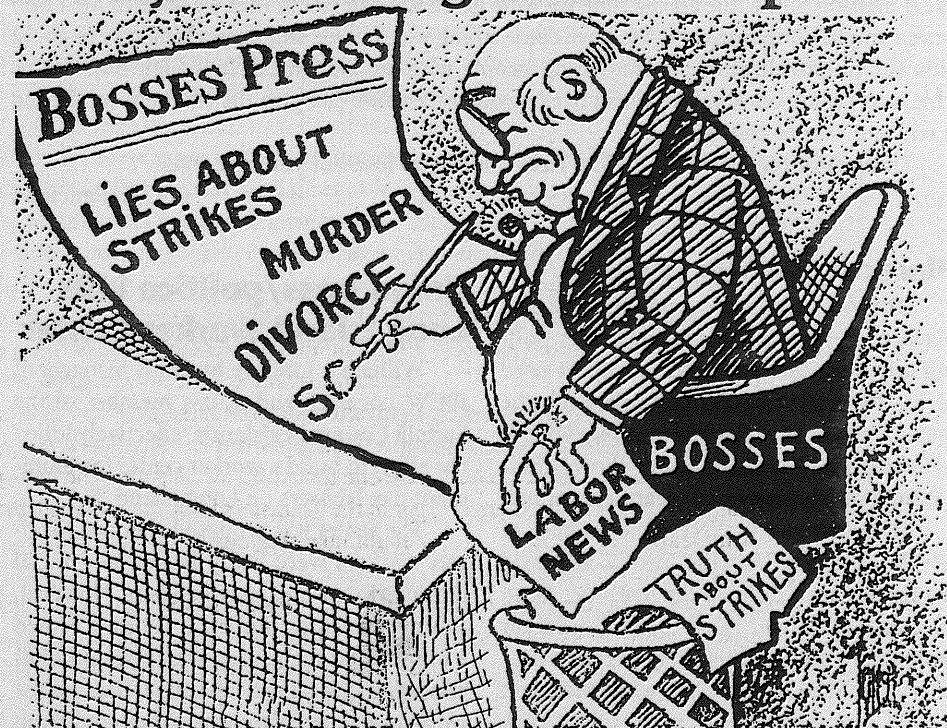
industrial solidarity. Duro factories – including unionized plants in the United States – continued working throughout the dispute, and no one seemed to see this as a problem.

Even more troubling was the inability to conceive of a unionism based on anything other than government certification. Speaking through a translator, two fired Duro workers described how the company tore down their posters during the days leading up to representation "election," saying this was done so that workers would not know that the independent union existed. But what kind of union is known to workers on the job only through posters?

While it seems clear to me that a genuine union manifests itself on a daily basis on the job, when I raised this point in the discussion neither the translators nor the speakers could conceive of a union functioning in such a way. Indeed, my point was so alien to their consciousness that they thought I was suggesting they needed to have more faith in the government's promises!

In many ways Labor Notes has become the victim of its own success. Many of its activists are now entrenched in the labor bureaucracy, where they find themselves allied with crooks to try to hold on to a share of power, threatening members with firings or lawsuits for challenging union policy, and giving union money to Democrats. Given a strategy revolving around capturing union office, rather than building genuine unionism on the shop floor, this was perhaps inevitable. But it offers very shaky footing indeed to set about changing the world.

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One of my fellow working stiffs was once telling me about when he parked his car in one of the downtown parking pavilions. When he came to get his car a few hours later, there was a new shift of parking attendants. The guy he handed his ticket to happened to now him. "Oh, is that your car? I had no idea that was your car!" He went into the office and handed him some stuff that had been locked up in the car trunk. I have heard numerous such accounts from those who had first-hand experience.

Some time back, Fellow Worker Wife had been to the hospital to undergo a check-up. She was told to put all her belongings in a locker and given a key. When she opened her locker, she found that all her money including small change had been removed from her purse. Obviously it was one of the security, who customarily have a pass key. She complained bitterly to management, who did nothing more than shrug their shoulders.

She understandably was quite indignant when relating the incident to me. "At least the street mugger is taking a risk, as their victim might have a gun or other means of self-defense, but here a completely helpless person is being victimized." I could only reply that this was only another example of the spirit and morality of capitalism being diffused among members of our own class. It is, of course, a despicable act and can not be viewed otherwise. Such people rob one person at a time, but those who continue to rob millions of people without getting off of their derrieres are foisted off on us as respectable entrepreneurs.

There are those who live in other locales who ask me if I am not afraid to live in a large city with all its street crime. I answer that with street muggers there is at least the element of personal contact. And if necessary, I can avoid being on the streets. The criminals who I can't avoid are those who never get on the streets and I never get to see, much less have any personal contact with. They are securely ensconced in their ivory tower offices and rob millions of us with inflationary prices, exorbitant rents and taxes and respectability.

It was Big Bill Haywood who remarked that for every dollar the rich man has and did not sweat for, somebody sweated for a dollar they never got to see.

Recently there was a program on educational television about the Germans who reside in Freedomland, said to be the second largest ethnic group. It is a little-known fact that at the time Freedomland decided to forego the supervision of His Majesty, more people here were speaking German than English; more were speaking Dutch than English; more were speaking French than English; and almost as many were speaking Swedish. However, it was the English speakers who were the landowners and politicians, and that is how we still speak the Queen's English.

It was a limitedly informative presentation, pointing out that those of German heritage were better soil and forestry conservationists than the English and imparting some of their musical traditions. They presented a roster of prominent Germans who helped to build Freedomland, like the architect of the Brooklyn Bridge, numerous doctors and scientists, and scads of militarists from von Steuben up to Dwight Eisenhower, as well as a number of Hollywood stars.

It was no surprise that they failed to mention the Haymarket comrades who paid with their lives for initiating the eight hour day, nor the German unionists and radical journalists who spread the gospel of labor solidarity. But of course unionism is a dirty word among those who endeavor to influence our opinion.

It was only a generation ago that ethnicity was a dirty word too. We were told about the great melting pot, while all the time we were given to understand that we were to melt into mono-lingual Anglo Saxons. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. In this age of globalization it's the wrong people who are globalized. It is high time for us chickens on the bottom, the world over, to organize so we can give the chickens on the top a real bad case of constipation.

Draftees of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your generals!

— C.C. Redcloud

## Piecards get bigger slices

UFCW 1977 leaders representing Zehrs Markets workers aren't the only ones pulling down six-figure salaries. A report used to justify controversial pay hikes for the local's executives prepared by former UFCW national director Cliff Evans shows their counterparts at other locals earn even more.

Brian Docherty, secretary-treasurer of UFCW Local 1000A in the Toronto area, said the figures are a little on the low side. As an executive with his 20,000-member local for more than a decade, he said, he earned a base salary of C\$124,000 in 2000, while president Kevin Corporon made just under C\$130,000.

Based on Evans' report, board members of Local 1977 voted last year to boost the salaries of their executives by 65 percent to as much as C\$118,300.

Angry members presented a 1,400-name petition demanding the raises be rescinded. In response to the controversy, the executive board hired a lawyer to scrutinize the local's operations. He compared the union officers' salaries to those of company executives with Zehrs Markets, finding the raises were fully justified.

## Union boss/politico kills Long Island Worker Center

William J. Lindsay, business manager of IBEW Local 25 and a new member of the Suffolk County Legislature, effectively killed the effort to build a worker center for immigrant day laborers on Long Island, N.Y.

The center was proposed after two Mexican workers were badly beaten and racial tensions in the area were laid bare. However, County Executive Robert J. Gaffney vetoed a bill to fund the center, which would offer educational, legal and referral services for the workers and be a place where they could wait for work each morning.

Gaffney said the county should not pay for anything that would foster the hiring of undocumented workers.

Returning to the language of exclusion, xenophobia and thinly veiled racism that once characterized the AFL, Lindsay supported the move. "The hard-working, blue-collar worker that I have represented most of my life is concerned about a legion of undocumented workers' being available in our communities to take their jobs."

# Celebrating May Day in Chicago

continued from page 3

lowing anyone in. Chants of "Shut it down" drowned out the scheduled speaker as direct action speaks louder than words. Police stood by waiting for orders, not knowing what to make of the action. Finally, ten officers moved in towards the door and positioned themselves directly next to the 15 protesters blocking the door. "It's nice to see that the Chicago Police have decided to help us shut down the Gap!" yelled one member of the group to cheers from the crowd. Protesters and police remained at a stand off for 10 minutes until the crowd began to move onward up Michigan Avenue. Left behind was a message written in chalk: "No Slave Labor Today."

The march continued up Michigan and made stops at Niketown and the Disney store. At Niketown a representative of United Students Against Sweatshops spoke of the struggle at the KukDong plant and the struggle against sweatshops in general. Meanwhile, across the street, several students who have been banned by a court order from going anywhere near Niketown as a result of an action last winter, stood in silence with their banner.

At Disney, Fellow Worker Carlos Cortez spoke on the need for international labor solidarity and one big union as the only way to put an end to sweatshop labor and secure freedom for humanity.

The marchers became a little more subdued as time began to creep up on them. It was after 2 p.m. and we'd been on the march for two and a half hours. We moved to the location of the Cook County jail in 1887 where the Haymarket Martyrs were hung. The place that once housed the jail and the gallows is now condos. On the way to the jail part of the crowd found the energy to challenge the police order to stay on the sidewalk. Getting ahead of the police line we took Grand Avenue. Police responded by using the mounted units to drive a wedge between the protesters and force them back towards the sidewalks. The action replayed again on Illinois near Dearborn, with police using the same tactics to force people back to the curb.

We finally arrived at the site of the

Haymarket Hangings at Dearborn and Hubbard. This is where May Day was born and it is where this march ended. Alma Washington, playing the role of Lucy Parsons, spoke of her attempt to visit her husband Albert at the jail the day of the execution only to be detained along with her children as the forces of order murdered her husband. As she called for a return of the eight-

hour day, many in the crowd called for the abolition of wage-slavery entirely.

Then Fellow Worker Mike Hargis gave a short, impassioned speech declaring that the Haymarket Martyrs were not hung for the eight-hour day or for free speech, as the liberal-labor crowd contends, but for being revolutionary anarchists who sought the abolition of wage labor and the state.

At this point the demonstration ended. Some folks headed home, exhausted; others made their way to Ashland Avenue where the Hispanic community were gathering for a human chain to call for amnesty for undocumented immigrants and an end to the U.S. bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

About 30 anarchists and Wobblies headed for Haymarket Square at Randolph and Desplaines, the site of the fateful 1886 rally against police murder that led to the demise of our fellow workers. Here once again the momentous events of the first four days in May 1886 were rehashed for the benefit of the youth who need to carry on the legacy.

This year's May Day march was not as large as last year's. In 2000 we were coming off the euphoria of Seattle, day laborers had set May Day as a day to strike for dignity, and workers at the Art Institute were in the middle of an organizing campaign, so there was some participation by mainstream labor. This year, however, mainstream labor was nowhere to be seen. This was probably due to the fact that the May Day Coalition insisted on a clear anti-capitalist theme, not disguising it as merely against globalization. In any case May Day 2001 was still a great event. We put our message of working class struggle out there for all to see, and nobody got busted!

## Government does what it's paid to do

I hear a lot of people complaining about the US government taking extreme antilabor measures — no political contributions, no safety rules, no unions on government contracts. But we have to remember that politicians are working stiffs just like us, and have to do what their bosses say or else lose their jobs.

We can all relate to that. I've had to do lots of bad and stupid things over the years in order to keep some job I couldn't quit yet.

Who are their bosses? In theory, they're paid by, and so work for, taxpayers. In fact, their campaign contributions are hundreds

or thousands of times more than their salaries, so it's their contributors they really work for.

If you look at the list of corporate contributors, you'll find that by and large politicians work for the same people many of us do. Maybe they should join the union.

(from the Portland IWW's *Local Works*)

## Repression in Kazakhstan

The Workers Movement of Kazakhstan is victim of an ongoing campaign of state repression. Several members have been arrested, and one died after a year in jail.

## IWW GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2001 IWW General Assembly will meet in Boston August 4th and 5th, with Industrial Union meetings and workshops the preceding afternoon. All members in good standing (i.e. whose dues are paid up) are eligible to participate. Housing and related information will be included in the issue #3 of the *General Organization Bulletin*.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged; all members registering by July 15 will be mailed a packet including the text of all Resolutions to be voted upon by the body, reports of officers, a Boston transit map, and other information.



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# books for Rebel Workers

## New This Month

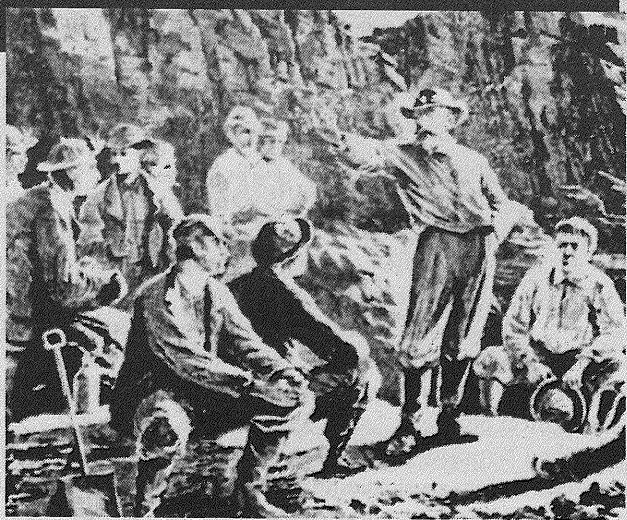
### The Molly Maguires:

The true story of labor's martyred pioneers in the coalfields

by Anthony Bimba

Written in 1932, this book reconstructs a "forgotten chapter" in the history of labor, revealing the true nature of the Molly Maguires as pioneers and martyrs in a determined struggle of the Pennsylvania anthracite region miners to improve their miserable working conditions during the 1870s. Bimba describes the role of the railroad company which owned the mines in the trials which sent the "Mollies" to the gallows.

144 pp. **\$6.50**



### Mother Jones

#### Labor History for 9-12 Year Olds

#### Mother Jones: One Woman's Fight for Labor

by Betsy Harvey Kraft

This children's book explores the myths and realities of Mother Jones's career, highlighting her wit, energy, stubbornness, and rhetorical talent. Photographs, illustrations, and newspaper clippings add tremendously to discussions of the fight for the eight-hour day, the formation of the

Knights of Labor, the Haymarket affair, Mary Harris' personal history, the Children's Crusade, the West Virginia Coal Wars, and much more.

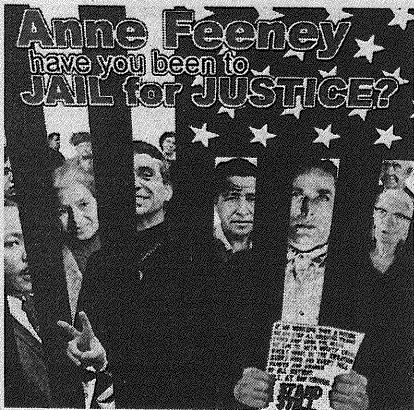
116 pp. (large format) **Originally published at \$16.95**

**Limited quantities available from the IWW Lit Department for \$11.00**

### The Autobiography of Mother Jones

"The most dangerous woman in America" - that's what employers and politicians called Mother Jones. But rebellious working men and women loved her as they have never loved anyone else, before or since. Today more than ever those who are struggling for a truly free society are inspired by her exemplary courage and devotion to the cause of solidarity and freedom. In this classic work of American nonfiction, Mother Jones details her fight for labor's liberation and her unswerving belief in industrial unionism as the key to that struggle. Her lively narrative - every page bristling with her characteristic humor, indignation and uncommon sense - is a masterpiece of American radicalism. It includes the exciting story of her crusade against child labor, her innovative efforts to organize working women, her experiences in court and jail, and her daring involvement in the Mexican Revolution.

302 pp. **\$12.00**



### Anne Feeney: Have You Been to Jail for Justice?

Anne Feeney's music can be heard on picket lines coast-to-coast. This new compact disk of 16 songs includes her now-famous "War On the Workers," about the dangerous working conditions which sparked the Staley strike. Also includes the Kensington Welfare Rights Union's "The Rich Man's House."

**\$15.00**

## IWW Literature

### Little Red Songbook 36th Edition

103 labor songs to fan the flames of discontent from around the world, with music. Includes songs by Joe Hill, Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Utah Phillips, and more. **\$10.00**

**One Big Union** An introduction to the structure, methods and goals of the Industrial Workers of the World. **\$2.00**

**A New Union Vision** by Arthur J. Miller A discussion of the present-day need for democratic, revolutionary unions. **\$2.00**

**The General Strike** by Ralph Chaplin The classic text - a call for organization. **\$2.00**

## Labor History

### Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology

Compiled and edited by Joyce L. Kornbluh Culled from Wobbly periodicals from the movement's founding in 1905 to the present, *Rebel Voices* presents pamphlets, stories, songs, poems, courtroom testimony, skits, cartoons and illustrations that bring the story of the "minutemen of industrial unionism" to life in native accents. - *Detroit Labor News* **\$24.00**

### The Fragile Bridge: Paterson Silk Strike, 1913

by Steve Golin A discussion of the challenges faced in the relationship between workers and the radical bohemians of Greenwich Village. A good discussion of the "self-activity" of the workers involved in the strike. **\$17.00**

**The Great Bisbee Deportation** by Rob E. Hanson Wobblies so worried the authorities of Bisbee, Arizona, that the state ran them out of town. This comprehensive account brings the events of the day alive. **\$2.00**

**Solidarity Forever** by Stewart Bird, Dan Georgakis, and Deborah Shaffer Oral histories of IWW members. **\$10.00**

**Strike!** by Jeremy Brecher A classic text - a history of American workers' struggle from a working-class viewpoint, arguing that class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank-and-file initiative. While this edition is somewhat less optimistic than the original, it still provides rich detail of workers' rebellions throughout American history, and abundant evidence for the proposition that workers are fully capable of making our own history, should we set our minds to the task. **\$22.00**

### Juice Is Stranger Than Friction: Selected Writings of T-Bone Slim.

T-Bone Slim was one of the IWW's best-loved columnists. Working-stiff, hobo, and revolutionist, T-Bone created a language all his own to lambast the plutocrats, scissorbills and faddists of his day. This collection includes columns, aphorisms & excerpts from organizing pamphlets. Funny, dazzling, biting and lyrical, T-Bone Slim is as readable today as ever. **\$12.00**

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## Class-Conscious Environmentalism

### The Fate of the New Carissa

by Arthur J. Miller A first-hand account of a ship explosion which filled Oregon's Coos Bay with chemicals, fuels, and filth. Also discusses the "flag of convenience" system which allows ship owners to escape safety, environmental, and labor laws. **16pp \$2**

## Union Democracy

### Democracy Is Power: Rebuilding Unions

from the Bottom Up by Mike Parker & Martha Gruelle. This book offers practical ideas of how the rank and file can run unions. Major discussion of Teamsters for a Democratic Union experiences in this area. **254pp \$17**

## Organizing Help

### A Troublemaker's Handbook: How to

Fight Back Where You Work-and Win! by Dan La Botz. An encyclopedic work on worker initiative and organizing on the job. Shows that sitdown strikes still aren't dead and immigrant workers can be organized. **262pp \$17**

### The Couriers are Revolting!

by Des Patchrider A lively and candid pamphlet on how the Dispatch Industry Workers Union organized English bike messengers from 1989 to 1992. Eventually this effort petered out but their innovative style of organizing provides an inspiration to all of us. **26pp \$3.50**

## Cool Stuff

### Solidarity of Labour t-shirts

Walter Crane design, specify size. **\$12**

**Strobing Bike Lights** Two-inch red reflectors printed with the IWW's logo. Clips onto the belt or pocket of runners & riders. Battery included. **\$4.50**

### Music for Rebel Workers Compact Discs

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A live concert by Utah Phillips. **\$15**

#### Rebel Voices

20 IWW songs, sung by Wobbly entertainers. **\$15**

#### Don't Mourn - Organize!

14 songs by and about Joe Hill, labor martyr. Includes performances by Billy Bragg, Utah Phillips, Pete Seeger, Hazel Dickens, and Paul Robeson **\$17**

#### Bucky Halker: Don't Want Your Millions

Includes little-known songs such as "New Made Graves of Centralia" and "Death of Mother Jones." Also features Wobbly classics "Rebel Girl" and "Dump the Bosses" and spoken word by Studs Turkel. **\$15**

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# Workers resist bosses the whole world 'round

## Union threatens ban to save schools

Construction workers have told the New South Wales Department of Education that they may refuse to carry out demolition and redevelopment work on four schools in inner Sydney, Australia. Authorities plan to sell the schools to cover operating deficits.

The NSW branch of the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union has condemned the plan as inappropriate. Assistant national secretary John Sutton told protesters there was "every likelihood that we would contemplate a ban... This is not the way to fix the problems in the inner city."

Government officials responded that plans to demolish the schools were "not set in concrete."

## Swedish police attack Anti-EU demo in Malmo

Over 2000 people participated in a demonstration against the EU Finance and Economic [ecofin] Minister Meeting in Malmo, Sweden, April 21st. Spring weather made for high spirits as the demo started. However, after only a few hundred metres, riot police stormed the demo, isolated 229 demonstrators and made mass arrests with brutal force.

Swedish news has shown pictures of demonstrators being punched with fists, hit with batons and dragged over the asphalt by stone-faced police in riot gear. A member of the EU parliament from the Swedish Green Party was also arrested as he protested against the police violence. For nearly two hours, demonstrators in the isolated block were removed one by one and subjected to brutality and humiliation – all as the news media and other demonstrators looked on from beyond heavily armed police lines.

In the aftermath of the exaggerated police action it has been explained that the police action was initiated by a few eggs being thrown at the demonstration's gathering point. As the police moved in on the demo with horses, K9 corps and a hovering helicopter, one demonstrator emptied a fire extinguisher towards a mounted police officer in self defence. This caused the horse to rear – another excuse used by the police to justify their action. Identification of the most brutal police officers will be difficult as they had removed ID numbers from their helmets.

The police action in Malmo exemplifies the Swedish police force's intentions and



methods of "nurturing a dialogue" between opponents of the EU and Swedish government's anti-social and neo-liberal policies and its proponents.

Activists are moving ahead with plans to protest the European Union summit in Gothenburg June 14-16. Unionists from throughout the continent will be marching to protest "reforms" aimed at breaking union power on the job and transforming Europe into an investor-friendly zone.

## Bangladeshi strike

More than a million women garment workers in Bangladesh struck in protest over being ordered to work on May Day. Union spokesman Munzurul Ahsan Khan said that while the garment workers' protest was primarily about pay and conditions, it was also what he called a gesture of support for worldwide anti-capitalism protests.

## Hundreds protest in East China

Several hundred disgruntled workers in eastern China demonstrated in front of local government offices April 2 in the latest report of discontent among workers as pressures mount from lay-offs and lagging pay.

Workers from the Zibo Chemical Fertilizer Company in Zibo city, Shandong province, marched to the government office to seek government intervention to protect their jobs. The company went bankrupt last year, throwing 1,500 workers out of work.

On the same day, teachers at the Guanyin Elementary and Middle School in southwestern Sichuan province's Suining city went on strike after the teachers had not received any pay since early this year.

And 500 workers from a steel factory near Xian, capital of northern Shaanxi province, started blocking an intersection March 30. The workers wanted to draw attention to the factory's failure to pay them for the past 18 months.

Meanwhile, Chinese shoemakers are

## Strike paralyzes India's largest city

Some 15 million workers joined a strike in Bombay in late April, crippling transport services and shutting schools and shops.

"The new economic policies of the government have affected everyone. The working classes will be reduced to nothing if we don't protect ourselves," said HN Trivedi of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, one of the unions participating in the strike.

The government is pursuing economic "reforms" that would open the country to greater foreign investment, sell off public enterprises, and slash subsidies. Workers also protested state plans to amend labor laws to permit contract labor in many workplaces, including restaurants, and eliminate restrictions on firings and lay-offs at mid-sized employers.

dying from inhaling benzene fumes during their 10- to 14-hour work days. One worker described his job as "slow suicide," but said he has no other way to survive. Benzene-free glues could be purchased for just pennies more per shoe, but employers find it cheaper to find new workers. The situation is so serious in many factories that the government-controlled "union" has called on authorities to enforce health and safety standards.

Exposure to toxic chemicals and other industrial hazards has escalated sharply during two decades of economic "reform." Desperate for revenue, local governments turn a blind eye. Desperate poverty means many workers do the same.

Dai Jianzhong of the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences is concerned that joining the World Trade Organization "might even worsen conditions by making markets here even more competitive, though I can't imagine how much worse they could be than they are now."

sion of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, imposing neoliberal policy in exchange for millions of dollars in loans. The state energy firm was privatized, for example, and now the monopoly is in the hands of Spanish-owned ENDESA, which is building a giant hydroelectric dam project on the BioBio River. Health care and education are also being privatized.

The first meeting of the IABD, LaBarca notes, was in 1974, a year after the military junta took power, helping to set the neoliberal tone of the Pinochet regime. "The dictatorship violated human rights to impose neoliberalism. It's not a system you can impose here democratically."

Santiago has settled down now, and the "socialist" president continues to negotiate a free trade agreement with the United States. Activists have sued the government for violating freedom of expression, making illegal arrests and injuring protesters, as well as the incident with the infant.

Activists plan more actions against corporate globalization in the coming months. "We don't ask permission to protest," LaBarca says. "That's not our way of thinking."

## Indonesian Adidas unionist jailed

Last September, PT Panarub factory workers held a series of demonstrations and strikes to protest working conditions. The Indonesian firm is a major Adidas contractor. Claiming that workers were intimidated into joining the protests, and that factory management had been insulted, police arrested union activist Ngadinah Binti Abu Mawardi April 23.

Ngadinah worked in the factory and was secretary of Perbupas, the alternative union in the factory. Now Adidas and PT Panarub claim they had nothing to do with the arrest and that there is nothing they can do. Police have refused to release her pending trial. While management says it hopes she will be freed, local activists believe they are colluding with police.

In Jakarta, more than 250 heavily armed police stormed the luxury Shangri-La Hotel to break a four-day sit-down strike, hauling several unionists off to jail. But while management has control of the hotel, the strike continues; the bosses recently sued union officials, complaining that the dispute was costing them money.

## Iranian workers want their wages

Workers continue to demand unpaid wages throughout Iran. Some 400 workers at the Kafsh-e Shadanpous factory blocked roads in Tehran April 8 to demand payment of nine months' wages and bonuses.

More than 1,000 workers from the Bafnaz textile factory in Isfahan blocked streets March 17, after management failed to honor earlier promises to pay their wages. That same day, drivers for the Islamic Free University in Shiraz struck, demanding payment of their wages.

Several thousand workers from Taleghani hospital demonstrated March 11; while Alaedin factory workers closed the road between Kehrán and Karaj to demand payment of wages now a year overdue.

As a result of a deep economic crisis, many factories have closed with massive wage arrears. Even when wages are paid, prices are rising so rapidly that workers are unable to make ends meet. While inflation is officially pegged at 15 percent, independent sources put it at twice that.

The present minimum wage is about a third of the government-set poverty line, and has been steadily falling further and further behind inflation. The situation is now so dire that earlier this year the authorities arrested the director of the government-sponsored labor organization for disturbing "general order" by organizing a protest demanding an increase in the minimum wage.

Half the country's workforce is presently unemployed, and millions of young Iranians leave school each year with no prospect of securing stable employment. The result is a steady torrent of protests across the country, as desperate workers conclude that they have no alternative but to confront the regime or starve.

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## 2,200 march in support of unions at Yale University

Some 2,200 Yale students, hospital workers and other workers marched from opposite ends of downtown New Haven, Conn., to the Yale Green April 18 to demand administrators abandon their refusal to allow hospital workers and graduate employees to unionize.

However, Yale officials said they remained determined to use all legal means to block unionization and dispatched supervisors to observe the demonstration and take note of participants.

## Chileans protest Inter-American Development Bank

BY NADIE, INDYMEDIA

Though the major news outlets of the world missed it, March in Chile proved an important landmark in the developing movement against globalization. Running through the streets for a week, trying to protest without getting teargassed or grabbed by the police, may not appear the most impressive feat, but the government knew it was important or they wouldn't have deployed hundreds of battle-ready officers to parole the city in water-launching tanks, tear gas-spraying trucks, motorcycles, busses and horses.

It was the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors for the Inter-American Development Bank, this time in Santiago, and Chilean civil society pulled together an unprecedented – for this country – coalition of anarchists, communists, students, environmentalists, labor groups and indigenous rights activists to protest neoliberalism.

The object was not to shut down the meeting – activists had a hard enough time trying to hold peaceful rallies. In the first few seconds of each protest, dictatorship-era police vehicles zoomed up, spraying a combination of sewage-tainted water and tear gas

on the crowd and everything else in sight, including newspaper kiosks, sidewalk vendors and crowds of tourists. Then came the troops, sprinting down the street to scoop up as many protesters as possible and load them into busses for processing.

The Chileans, not disposed to lay down and accept arrest, would scatter, reunite, scatter again, follow the sounds of chanting and reunite. Many got caught in the stampede or the road blocks and in three days of protest, nearly 300 were arrested, including many perplexed bystanders. When a group of 25 gathered outside a police office to wait quietly on the sidewalk for the release of their friends, they were suddenly rushed by "pacos" – as they're called – who arrested more and hospitalized a 10-month-old baby with the chemical-water spray.

The police, though not known for restraint, are not usually this aggressive, activists say, but the government wanted to make sure this economic summit went smoothly.

Mauricio LaBarca, a 3rd year sociology student at the University of Chile and spokesperson for the Anti-IABD Coordination, explains that the IABD is the continent's ver-